SOUTH AFRICA

MAY 24 1943

A Nation's Conscience

Last December 2,000 native (Negro) municipal workers rioted in Pretoria after demanding a $1-a-week raise above their weekly scale. Troops fired on the rioters, killed 16, wounded 66 (TIME, Jan. 11). For South Africa to contemplate last week was the report of a commission headed by liberal-minded Justice John Murray. It found: 1) the riot sprang spontaneously from wage grievances and disgraceful housing conditions; 2) ten of those killed were shot in the back while running to escape armored cars. In a land where 2,000,000 whites dominate 7,000,000 restive Negroes the report was dynamite. It was also an earnest of a nation's conscience.

Too Much Dagga Caused Riots

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Courier's London Correspondent)

LONDON, August 5—A special commission appointed by South Africa to inquire into rioting by colored troops at Lainsburg, South Africa last March, published a report this week that rioting was spontaneous and that no organized attack was made upon Europeans and property.

The commission found that no more than 50 soldiers were involved and their behavior was due to excessive drinking and the smoking of native tobacco called Dagga.

The commission recommended that General Smuts apply stricter enforcement of military code against natives forbidding the sale of liquor to African soldiers while traveling.

Clear Soldiers Of Rioting Charge

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

(Chicago Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON.—A special commission appointed by Prime Minister Jan Smuts to inquire into rioting by colored troops at Laingsburg, South Africa last March, stated in its report, submitted Saturday, that the rioting was spontaneous and that no organized attack was made upon European or their property.

AUG 7 1943

The commission found that no more than 50 soldiers were involved and that their behavior was due to excessive drinking and smoking the native tobacco called "Dagga."

The commission recommended that the prime minister apply stricter enforcement of the military code against the natives, which forbids the sale of liquor to African soldiers while traveling.

61-1943

Race Clash in Mobile Shipyard Halted by Troops; 7 Men Hurt

PM MAY 26 1943
New York, N. Y.

By United Press

MOBILE, Ala., May 26.—Two truck-loads of soldiers from Brookley Field, a detail of Naval shore patrolmen and all available civilian law enforcement officers were dispatched to Pinto Island yards of Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co. yesterday to quell a clash between white and Negro workers.

Seven Negroes were slightly injured during a series of fights. Half bricks were hurled, according to reports, and there was some fighting with knives.

From the number of military troops and officers sent to the scene to preserve order, it appeared that a riot of serious proportions threatened.

MAY 26 1943

As a precautionary measure to prevent the gathering of demonstrative groups in the section, an order was sent out closing for the present all liquor stores and other places selling any intoxicating beverages.

The trouble was reported to have started when a number of Negroes went to work alongside whites. Neither the company nor shipyard unions would immediately comment on the situation. (Other sources queried by PM last night were unable to provide any further details on the clash.)

It was reported that all production was stopped at the yards and that Negro workers were ordered by the company and union officials to go home and stay there until the trouble was settled.

Gov. Chauncey Sparks notified local officials that he was holding three companies of State Guardsmen on the alert to send to the yards if needed. At the request of local authorities, 25 State patrolmen were sent here from Montgomery.

MAY 26 1943

MAY 27 1943

U. S. Agencies Investigate

At least two Government agencies — the Maritime Commission and the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC)—have been in touch with the situation, and the FEPC said today it had ordered two of its investigators in the field.

Spokesmen for both agencies emphasized that they were standing four-square behind the President's nondiscrimination policy, and pointed out that the unio nleadership of both CIO and AFL have endorsed this policy and have promised to enforce it.

Involved in the Alabama yards is the CIO shipbuilders' union, but the picture is complicated by AFL rivalry and a tremendous influx of white workers all over the country, which has created a housing shortage and increased pressure on the large local Negro population.

MAY 27 1943

Many Negroes Employed

The Alabama yards have always employed several thousands of Negroes, many of them in semi-skilled occupations. The other big yard in the city is the Gulf Shipbuilding Co., which has an AFL contract and which has employed Negroes only as common laborers.

MAY 27 1943

Last year the AFL tried to move into the Alabama yards, promising the Negroes there something which it had made no attempt to give them at the Gulf yards—something approaching equality with whites. The AFL drive so far has failed.

None of the interested agencies in Washington seem to be sure exactly how Tuesday's trouble started, nor do they profess to know much of the details of the fighting. It was not known here whether soldier detachments from nearby Brookley Field and other military units that were called out to maintain order have as yet been recalled.

Rioting Caused By 'Upgrading'

MAY 27 1943

PM New York, N. Y. Bureau

By Victor H. Bernstein

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Government officials said today that production has been resumed at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co., Mobile, Ala., where, on Tuesday, rioting between Negro and white workers interfered with the shipyard's vital shipbuilding and repair program.

But some officials emphasized that the issue which apparently caused the riots—the "upgrading" of Negro welders to work side by side with whites at the same pay, it is believed—must be squarely met before uninterrupted production at the huge yards can be assured.

MAY 27 1943

One official called the rioting, which resulted in the injuring of seven Negroes and perhaps more, the "biggest challenge yet" to FDR's non-discrimination policy in war work.

MAY 27 1943

CONTEMPT IN ALABAMA

The racial labor situation, troublesome in several war production centers, has produced a contempt of court ruling in Mobile, Ala., which, to a layman's eyes, runs directly contrary to the reasoning of the U. S. Supreme Court in The Los Angeles Times case.

Ralph B. Chandler, militant publisher of The Mobile Press-Register, was sentenced by Judge T. J. Touart, of the Mobile Inferior Criminal Court, to six hours in jail and a $10 fine, because of an editorial statement which the court held to be untrue and therefore in contempt. The editorial called "a toss-up between conviction and acquittal" the fixing of a $2,000 peace bond for a man charged with making threats during recent racial disorders at a Mobile shipyard. It held that if the defendants were guilty of violating the law, "they should have been given jail sentences. If they had violated no law, they should not have been haled into court." Birmingham, Ala., News

Judge Touart's response to this, in sentencing Mr. Chandler, was that the Alabama law required no other action than the fixing of a peace bond on the charge of making threats. The paper's counsel countered by stating that the judge could have accused the defendants of "inciting to riot." Seven people were hurt in the disturbances. July 4, 1943

The circumstances of the riot are important, but this editorial is concerned with the court's assumption of the right to punish an alleged contempt, committed by publication after the case had been settled, and not within the court's presence. In three cases brought before the U. S. Supreme Court last year by The Los Angeles Times, on appeal from California decisions, this right of inferior courts was definitely limited. There is no question of a court's right to punish as contemptuous a publication during the trial of a case which might prejudice the rights of any party. Newspapers, in general, are careful to avoid such publication.

In an entirely different category is editorial comment on a court's action after a case has been concluded. Newspapers have fought to maintain that right for many years. The weight of higher judicial opinion has been on the side of the publishers and against the claims of inferior courts' power to punish fair newspaper criticism. The Supreme Court put the capstone on that structure in its decision in favor of The Los Angeles Times and against the lawyers' group which brought the California suit to stifle fair criticism.

The Mobile case, it is indicated, will also be carried to the Supreme Court, if necessary. It is now on appeal, with Mr. Chandler at liberty on a writ of habeas corpus. In view of the plain language of The Los Angeles Times decision, that lengthy and expensive procedure should not be necessary. The higher courts of Alabama can make it by accepting the wisdom of the national bench as their own, and rejecting what appears to Editor & Publisher to be a plain violation of the free press guarantees.—Editor & Publisher.

News The Imperative

Nothing could be more obvious than that violence among ourselves in this time of war can bring only added burdens and griefs to us all. It might bring disaster of wide proportions. Birmingham, Ala., News

That is so evident that Alabamians generally must have been horrified by the news of trouble between white and Negro workers at a Mobile shipyard. What could anybody achieve except more trouble by fighting of this kind, especially when all our physical powers are so desperately needed in fighting the enemy and producing the essential materials of war?

Ships are built at the scene of this Mobile trouble. Have any of these workers any time or energy to spare from building ships for manning and supplying the battle fronts? What could be more ironic and handicapping to the nation than for shipbuilders to be diverted from their immeasurably important work by clashes among themselves!

The urgency of preventing that sort of thing is so clear, so imperative, that surely the great majority of our people, white and colored, are united in seeking to promote understanding, mutual consideration and the most rigorous self-discipline.

This realization and this determination apparently have been strong among the people of the Mobile area and among officials of that city and the state. For—and we can be deeply thankful for the fact— the disorder at the shipyard never did get very far in itself. And there has been thus far, at least, no recurrence of the trouble. This speaks well for the control and judgment of Mobile people and for the prompt and firm measures taken by the officials concerned.

But even though there has been no further violence, one problem stands out. It is evident that some danger still may exist for workers—and this includes white as well as colored men—who desire to get on with their work and their service to the country. It must be made unmistakably plain that all workers are to be protected in their basic right to work.

MAY 27 1943

It would be dangerous folly to try to compel any groups of men to work in close proximity when acute animosity prevailed against such conditions.

But, according to the president of the company at whose shipyard the trouble started, it was only "false rumors" that Negro welders were to be added to white crews that led to the fighting. This gives renewed emphasis to the care that must be exercised in personal conversation and in dealing with unsubstantiated reports.

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However, it *is* feasible to maintain satisfactory working conditions. It is absolutely imperative that all men desirous of getting on with their service to the nation be given the fullest assurance of protection. There must be justice—human justice. And the work must go forward.

SENTENCED TO PEN FOR ASSAULT ON SHIPYARD WORKER

Des Moines, Iowa

Mobile, Ala.—James Melvin Jackson, 20, Saturday, July 17, was sentenced to [illegible] years in the penitentiary in connection with a racial disturbance at the Alabama Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co. last May 25.

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Jackson had entered a plea of guilty of assault to murder.

Bystander

Several witnesses testified at a pre-liminary hearing that they had seen Jackson, white, strike Negro shipyard worker, on the head with a hammer.

Ralph B. Chandler, publisher of The Mobile Press and Register, got himself a contempt of court citation from the sheriff of the county the newspapers, but the editorial columns of a newspaper are upheld in their freedom of expression by the constitution. When they are no are due and, in most cases, have the respect of an editorial longer upheld, then real freedom in America is lost. The courts

FEPC, Urban League Men Help Settle Shipyard Clash

Sun Baltimore Md
JUN 5 1943

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MOBILE, Ala. — Three of the best trouble shooters in the country on the race question were here to handle the outbreak at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company.

Representing the Fair Employment Practice Committee was Clarence M. Mitchell, principal examiner, of Baltimore, who arrived here by plane Wednesday with a white colleague, E. G. Trimble.

Franklin D. Nichols, field secretary of the National Urban League, who is currently in charge of the Southern Division, represented his organization.

James E. Jackson, one of the founders of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, was here for his group.

Old Hands on Job

Mitchell and Nichols are old hands in this kind of work and have been together previously in similar situations. The former, called by the local press a Roosevelt aide, was formerly in charge of field services with the War Manpower Commission, before being assigned to the FEPC.

Nichols has been working in this field since the first World War when he was a member of the AEF University in Europe.

Jackson helped organize the Youth Congress in 1937. Since that time both he and the Congress have been very vocal on race problems, particularly in the deep South. He is a graduate of Va. Union and Howard Universities.

CIO Man Here

Also here, was Elijah Jackson, national organizer of the International Shipbuilders and Marine Workers of America, CIO, who has sat in on all important conferences concerning the crisis.

He has also had previous experience in racial disturbances. Several weeks ago he was injured in a row at a Savannah, Ga., shipyard.

cause the company, in compliance with Executive Order 8802, put colored welders to work Monday night.

Whites Attack Negro Women

According to shipyard officials, the trouble began about 9:30 o'clock Tuesday morning when whites began to wantonly attack colored women as well as men workers evidently for the purpose of spreading terrorism among the colored employes because colored welders had been employed.

The fact that the colored workers had been segregated from the whites and were not working on the same shift with those whites who started the trouble clearly indicated the ridiculousness of the attitude of the trouble-makers.

There are unconfirmed reports of from two to eight deaths and it is definitely known that more than a score of workers, the majority of them Negroes, were injured.

D. E. McFayden, chief of police, said that the trouble started when the tools checked in by white welders on the day shift were immediately checked out to the new crew of Negro welders. Twenty-five men, the chief said, were involved in the flare-up, which made it necessary for ten Negroes and one white man to receive first aid treatment.

No Negroes on Day Shift

Officials of the company said there were no Negro welders on the day shift, and made it clear that an investigation was being made to determine the cause of the trouble. The company stood firm in its determination to use available skilled labor, no matter the color of their skin. This policy is the result of the tight labor market prevailing in Mobile, which has been referred to by the War Manpower commssion as the tightest in the whole country.

As a precaution against further trouble, police authorities ordered the closing of all liquor stores and prohibited the sale of beer throughout the city. Gov. Chauncey Sparks issued an order closing state-owned stores, not only in the city, but also in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

Order was restored in the disturbance until all the Negro workers, numbering some 2,000, left the yard. Many of these workers had been employed at the yard since World War 1, but at lesser skills than they now enjoy. Apparently the white workers had not taken exception to the use of Negro workers as common laborers, burners or chippers, the most dangerous and back-breaking tasks in a shipyard.

Governor Sparks later sent 25 state highway patrolmen to Mobile, and ordered three companies of the state guard on the alert and stationed in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Mobile, with a war period population of 200,000 including thousands who live under the influence of Justice Taney's Dred Scott decision, is perhaps one of the nation's present potential danger spots for serious racial friction.

But for the promptness of the management of the shipbuilding company, city and county law enforcement authorities and proper federal officials, the city might have awakened to find itself in the throes of an always regrettable race riot.

CIO union officials are for once standing firm in Mobile for full integration of Negro workers in the shipbuilding industry here. Their organization is the bargaining agency at the Alabama Drydocks and Shpbuilding company yard.

According to J. L. LeFlore of the NAACP, company officials have promised full protection to all colored workers who return to work.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

RELEASE TROOPS

MOBILE, Ala. — (ANP) — According to Lt. Robert B. Baulieu, public relations officer at Brookley field, all troops have been withdrawn from the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding corporation's Pinto island yard where at least eight men were injured in a race disturbance last week.

600 Soldiers On Guard To Prevent Further Trouble

Houston, Texas
JUN 5 1943

By CLIFF MACKAY

MOBILE, Ala. — (ANP) — With approximately 600 soldiers from the Brokley Field Army Air Base on guard, apparently calm has returned to the yards of the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding company where on Tuesday colored workers, men and women alike, were victims of a vicious mob attack be-

OWI Blames Shipyard Firm for 'Riots'

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.
JUN 14 1943

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MOBILE, June 13.—Major responsibility for the attack on Negro workers two weeks ago in which 80 workers were injured, all but one of them Negroes, yesterday was laid at the door of Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co. officials by Marvin Cox, regional director of the Office of War Information.

Cox accused shipyard officials of suppressing a recommendation from the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee for upgrading Negroes and through that suppression giving rise to "new rumors, specious reports and complaints that there were secret provisions which would operate against the interests of the workers affected."

Cox's report, combined with other information which came to light earlier, indicates that management policies actually helped to incite the riot in a maneuver designed to discredit the FEPC.

The OWI official revealed that on May 10 the FEPC recommended a plan for upgrading Negro workers through the assignment of a separate shipway.

NO EXPLANATION

Management made no explanation of the plan but on May 24 assigned an all-Negro welding group to a single shipway where there were no white welders but which was not open exclusively for the Negro workers.

It has been stated here that management must have expected trouble to follow and that the blame would be placed on the shoulders of the Administration—attributable to the enforcement of the President's Executive Order 8802, banning discrimination in war industry.

One of the most seriously hurt in the riot was a white worker who attempted to rescue a Negro from two of the company's guards who were beating up the Negro workers.

The speed with which soldiers arrived at the scene of the rioting has been cited as evidence that trouble was expected at the yards.

COMPANY STATEMENT

Further indication of the special role played by the company in this connection is to be seen in the statement issued by D. R. Dunlap, president of the shipbuilding company, after the riot occurred.

He said that was the result of the company's effort to put in force Order 8802, and made it appear that its assignment May 24 had been forced on it by the administration. It was reported at the same time that shipyard officials had a choice to make either to employ all Negroes or all whites.

After the riot, a local committee worked out a plan which differed from the FEPC's original proposals only in that it provided for four shipways instead one for Negroes. Final agreement on this plan, Cox said, was approved in Washington on June 4, but the text was withheld from publication locally, despite its importance, until June 7.

Meanwhile, the shipyard added to unrest by posting Bulletin 86 in the yards which said:

"This to advise that anyone, regardless of rating, found reading any newspaper or other periodical with the exception of **'Fore and Aft'** (the company publication) whether they are on shift or off are subject to discharge. You are paid by the United States to bend every effort to win the war and there is no excuse whatever for defrauding the government in this manner."

COMPANY GAG

Hence the management not only kept from the workers the original proposal of the FEPC but the local community plan, while at the same time seeking to prevent them from learning about it from any other source.

R. B. Chandler, publisher of the **Mobile Press** and the **Mobile Register**, has been cited by Judge Tisdale J. Touart of the Mobile Inferior Criminal Court of charges of contempt in connection with the attacks.

The Mobile publisher was critical of the way those arrested in the riot, were treated in court. If guilty, they should have been given jail sentences and they should no law, they should not have been haled into court, he wrote. He is out on $500 bond for a hearing June 28.

61-1943

Alabama

Alabama White Dailies Blast Riots At Mobile Shipyard as Axis Aids

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

By PV Special Correspondent

Special

MOBILE, Ala.—Last Tuesday, the same day the anti-poll tax bill was introduced into the House of Representatives, a roving mob of white workers at the Alabama Dry Docks and Shipbuilding Co., armed with steel bars, pieces of lead pipe and scrap iron, made a sneak attack upon Negro workers and drove the morning shift of over 2,000 men and women from their jobs.

JUN 5 1943

The outbreak followed the report coming from a reliable source that much "table talk" had gone on in the Kiwanis Club among Montgomery legislators and Dixon's followers that riots would result if the bill passed.

The workers, taken completely by surprise, suffered many casualties, with several women among the more than a score who suffered bone fractures and other severe injuries.

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PRESS SCORES OUTBREAK

The *Mobile Register*, white daily, and the *Mobile Press* condemned the attack on the Negro workers who were guiltless of any aggressions and characterized the violent demonstration as a great day for Hitler. The Birmingham, Ala., *Age-Herald*, influential white daily, following a lengthy editorial analysis and condemnation of the outbreak, concluded: "The right of all citizens to work in peace and safety must be protected. That is fundamental in human justice. Moreover, it is an urgent necessity in behalf of our country in its time of great danger and need."

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The violent, unprovoked attack started on ships under construction on Ways No. 5 and 6 and spread rapidly throughout the yard. All evidence indicates that the mob action was carefully planned and systematically organized. Following the rioting, workers left their jobs in droves.

"HITLER-INSPIRED"

Charles Hanson, regional director of the International Union of Marine Shipbuilding Workers of America (CIO), the bargaining agency for the Addsco workers, and D. R. Dunlop, president of the company, have branded the rioting a "Hitler-inspired action" and urged the workers to return to their jobs.

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Col. Robert E. Joerg, commander of the State Guard companies ordered to Mobile by Gov. Chauncey Sparks issued a statement declaring "The State will protect any man, regardless of color, who wants to work."

In spite of the presence on the scene of a large number of State Highway patrolmen and two companies of regular army troops from Bolling Field, armed with machine-guns, 6,000 Negro workers have not been re-assured, by Saturday, less than 200 had reported for work, and hundreds are fleeing the city.

THE REAL FACTS

It has been claimed that the resentment of the white workers to the presence of Negroes on the job was inflamed by assigning of Negro welders last Monday night to work in the yards. Following an all-day conference Friday, it was announced that agreement had been made on the plan for continuing the up-grading of Negroes but at the same meeting the objections expressed by the striking and rioting white workers.

The plan, in all likelihood, will call for the segregation of the Negro workers on specified ship ways after the pattern of the Sun Ship Co.

The following factors served to charge the atmosphere for the mob attack:

Unrelieved grievances of white workers such as favoritism in promotions; no uniform standards of upgrading and classification, and inefficient management;

No incentive pay plan resulting in low production. The Negro welding crew worked the night shift Monday, without incident. According to the foreman, the crew did as much work on its first night on the job as white crews have been completing in a week, with the result that white welders accused them of speeding up the job;

Weakness of the Union in the yards. Union leadership has little influence over workers;

Backwardness of white workers. Thousands are from the hills and plantations of Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama, with no human attitudes towards Negroes, no appreciation of labor unity and organization, and no understanding of the issues of the war. The company has rejected union proposals for a systematic, patriotic program of education of these workers; on the contrary, has exploited their backwardness as a buffer against the further extension of the union's influence;

Presence of white women on jobs with Negro men, giving rise to inflammatory sex rumors, social equality bugaboo, etc.

Craft prejudices of painters, welders, etc., against Negroes and women "lowering the dignity" of their trades by receiving equal ratings and equal pay;

LACK OF HOUSING

Lac kof adequate housing, transporation and recreational facilities in the city, social irritants which keep tempers eternally at razor-edge;

Finally, all of the mentioned factors which have gone on for months, have prepared the stage for reactionaries of every stripe to play upon their prejudices and grievances with the resulting mob rioting and interruption of war effort.

JUN 5 1943

Mobile has been the happy-hunting ground of Horace Wilkerson and ex-Governor Dixon's League for White Supremacy, the Ku Klux Klan and direct Axis agents.

SITUATION TENSE

The atmosphere is still charged with expectancy and the tension runs high. The city is heavily patroled by armed deputies, police and soldiers. All pedestrians are forced to keep moving. All meetings are banned; liquor sales have been stopped and taverns closed.

This correspondent talked with one of the more seriously injured workers at the home of her sister before she was taken to the hospital. She is Virginia Richardson, 18 years old, a slight, 95-pound brown-skin girl. She has a five-month's old baby and her husband is in the army. She worked as a sweeper. When the mob began its attack in the far end of the yard, she was high up on a ship.

A Negro worker picked her up and carried her down the gangway toward the ferry, but the mob overtook them. The man carrying her was struck down and suffered a compound fracture of the jaw and other injuries about the head. Mrs. Richardson tried to escape but was overtaken by a white man who struck her with a steel slab, continuing to beat her after she fell to the ground.

She managed to hobble to the pier where other Negro workers carried her across on the ferry, then she collapsed. She suffered a fracture of the pelvis, ruptured left ovary, injury of the left kidney and injury in the lumbar region of the spine. She identified her foreman, "Mr. Wickerson," as one of the ringleaders in the fight. One man, James M. Jackson, 103 N. Clairborne, has been arrested and charged with assault upon an unknown Negro with intent to kill. Other arrests are expected.

Other workers interviewed and who were on the scene and were attack victims, made the following comments:

Z. Campbell, a bolt tender: "I'm getting the hell out of this town. They came at us like beasts!"

Joe ——: "I gotta wife in Mobile and five children. I get sixty-three cents an hour as a laborer. I need the job so I gotta stay. I hope I don't get killed."

E. R. Richards: "200 Negro chippers work on Pinto Island side by side with the white workers; we ain't had no trouble. All this with the welders. A lot of 'em are Mississippians that ain't never seen a welding torch before they came here."

Vernon Carter: "I'm leaving. Release or no release. I'm going in the army. I know I might get killed if I go overseas, but I'll have a gun and I can fight back."

Charlie King: "As far as I'm concerned, I'm going to stick here. That's what they want us to do—run away. I'm not afraid of 'em. All the white guys aren't against us. Some of the whites tried to

used

"Most urgent housing, recreation and transportation" were responsible.

Priest expressed the opinion that

SEGREGATION PLAN AT MOBILE SCORED

WASHINGTON, July 8—(AP)— Msgr. Francis J. Haas, chairman of the government's reorganized fair employment practices committee said Wednesday it "cannot give its approval to the complete segregation of Negroes" on four of 12 ways other."

As read by Haas, the resolution was the scene of recent race trou- at a Mobile, Ala., shipyard which ble.

At a press conference, Haas, back arrangement of ot end the from a three-day trip to Detroit, segregating Negro work- said he found no evidence that the four ways said: Ku Klux Klan or the Axis powers committee accepts the ac- had inspired the Michigan city's cedent "one way or the groes on the four ways and does not consider that as a precedent."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald

July 9 1943

JUN 5 1943

Mobile Citizens Blame Recent Riot On Migratory Shipyard Workers

Amsterdam News New York, N. Y.

JUN 12 1943

Leaders Say No Disturbance Happened Before Influx of Out-of-Towners

MOBILE, Ala. (ANP)—Negro and white citizens, jealous of the long standing reputation of the city for harmonious relations, have blamed the recent riot and labor difficulty at the local shipyards on migrant workers and not native Mobilians.

Because of the war, the city's colored population has grown to a total of 60,000. There are no social workers among these Negroes, no social agencies, no truant officer, insufficient educational facilities, and no planned recreational program for girls and boys or young adults.

Leaders here describe Mobile as a small city that has outgrown itself, with no facilities to care for the influx of people of both races, poor housing, insufficient health services and too few clinics for the underprivileged.

An inter-racial committee of the YMCA, comprised of Negro and white women, commended the police department of the city, the Alabama National Guard and the soldiers from Brookley for their aid in handling the situation and offering protection to the Negro workers in the shipyard.

These leaders say that native Mobilians are envious of their good reputation throughout the country with respect to race relations. "No disturbance of the sort has ever happened before," they emphasized.

The contributing factors in the disturbance are described as "far-reaching." For years Negroes and whites have been working side by side in the Addsco yard but the Negro has been the unskilled worker and the white man's helper in the skilled labor department.

Now that the city has a new type of Negro laborer, the trained worker whose ability to manipulate machines and tools is equal to that of the white worker, the white is resentful when the skilled Negro is upgraded and receives the same salary as he does.

JUN 12 1943

Ala. Rioter Gets Jail Sentence

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois.

By JOHN LeFLORE

(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala.—The firmness of circuit court judges in imposing jail sentences on white shipyard rioters may have a definite effect toward the control of racial tension here.

Last Friday J. E. Christian, 17, white, was sentenced to a 30-day

JUN 12 1943

Under the new plan the separate shipways will be supervised by white workmen while Negro laborers and helpers will be continued in other jobs throughout the yards as in the past.

Washington Gets Plan

The plan was submitted to Washington Friday night following a conference of government, shipyard and union officials who met at the Pinto Island plot in an effort to solve difficulties which had earlier in the week crippled the production for the Maritime commission.

According to the Atlanta WMC office only the approval of the Maritime commission and the War Manpower commission is needed to put the plan into immediate effect.

Although WMC has already announced the main points of the new plan, complete details are not expected to be made public until Addsco's workers gather for a mass meeting at Pinto Island to be the first to hear the setup explained fully. The meeting is slated for the immediate future.

JUN 12 1943

Seek Federal Probe of Mobile Riot

Savannah, Ga. Tribune

In Which Negro Workers Were Run off Job

Mobile, Ala., June 1—An investigation by federal authorities of attacks on Negro men and women at the Alabama Dry Dock Shipbuilding Company's Maritime Yard was demanded last week by J. L. LeFlore, chairman, Regional Conference of Southern Branches of the NAACP. Investigations so far reveal a vicious and apparently well organized mob attack on May 25. It was revealed that colored welders had been segregated from white workers and were not even working on that shift with white persons who started the trouble. This was pointed to as an indication of the untenability of the attitude of the white trouble makers.

It is reported that one of the victims, a young woman, has been incapacitated through a pelvic injury, and that two other women were struck in the mouth and on head with iron and pieces of pipe by white men members of the mob. Unconfirmed but persistent reports are that from 2 to 6 deaths have occurred.

It is definitely known that more than a score of Negroes was injured. Few Negroes have returned to work out of a force of six thousand colored help..

The NAACP has made appeals to the President, the War Manpower Commission and other federal authority to take a firm stand with those responsible for the trouble and to afford complete protection to colored workers in all capacities.

Trouble has been brewing here for several weeks due to the resentment of some white workers at the proposal to upgrade Negroes as skilled.

The NAACP asserted that Negroes have been aggravated because, they charge, that they have been performing skilled tasks but have been denied the rates of pay that skilled white workers receive.

JUN 6 1943

Offer $1,000 For Proof of Riot Death

Kansas City Call

MOBILE, Ala. — (ANP)—The Mobile Register in a front page editorial this week offered a $1,000 reward for proof that a "single person was killed in the racial conflict at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding company's Pinto Island plant last Tuesday."

Several colored and white workers were injured and according to some reports, at least one person was killed when white employers staged a riot after learning that colored welders were to work on the same shift with white workers.

Kansas City, Mo.

As a result of the riot, thousands of Negroes failed to return to their jobs. Hundreds, using up their precious gasoline allowance, have been leaving here daily, causing a sharp reduction in production at the yard.

"Rumors are lies spread by idle tongues and empty heads continue to whiz over the telephone wires, across the back fences and up and down the streets of Mobile as an aftermath of the racial affray last Tuesday," the editorial said "This paper is absolutely confident that this reward will never be collected because the rumors of death have been thoroughly investigated by trained members of its staff and found to be without foundation. Many persons, however, prefer to believe that news has been suppressed . . . . To convince the skeptics we make the over offer of $1,000 cash reward.

"Let's have an end of gory fiction and get along with our task of trying to win the war."

JUN 1 1943

Southern Whites Riot When Negroes Are Put To Work In Shipyard

New York Age

MOBILE, Ala. — Soldiers and police were called on to quell a disturbance which started Tuesday, when Negro welders were assigned to work with white welders in a yard operated by the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding Corporation.

New York, N. Y.

Police Chief D. E. McFayden said several of the Negro workers were beaten by the whites and that order was restored only when all Negroes employed at the yard were sent home. Seven Negroes and one white worker were injured in the fighting.

MAY 29 1943

In any effort to prevent the spreading of disturbances elsewhere, police ordered the closing of all liquor stores and prohibited the sale of beer anywhere.

In addition to the Negro workers sent home from the shipyard, approximately 7,000 others were idle when Frank Jones, president of the Central Trades Council of Molbie (AFL), ordered all workers engaged on any construction jobs in the city as members of an AFL union to return to their homes.

JIM CROW UNITS FOLLOW RIOT IN MOBILE

Amsterdam News New York, N. Y.

JUN 12 1943

WMC to Use Separate Shipyards for Skilled Workers As "Cure-All"

MOBILE, Ala. (ANP) — Described as the "cure-all" for labor troubles between white and Negroes at Addsco, the regional office of the War Manpower commission at Atlanta announced late Wednesday night that it understood" the U. S. Maritime Commision has approved a plan for separate workers at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding company in Mobile.

Trouble brewed at Addsco last week between white and Negro workmen over what the company said was the upgrading of Negro welders in compliance with a directive from President Roosevelt. The riot between the races sent several persons to the hospital.

United States Army soldiers from Brookley field are still on guard at the plant to protect government property and to prevent interference with the war effort. They were called on the job Tuesday when the disturbance began.

JUN 12 1943

Conference Is Called In Mobile To Discuss Recent Race Disorder

News MAY 28 1943

Shipyards Now Operating But Officials Say Situation Still Somewhat Confused

Birmingham, Ala.

MOBILE, Ala.—(AP)—Union, company and Maritime Commission representatives planned a conference here Friday to discuss troubles that followed racial disorders at the huge Pinto Island shipyard of the Alabama Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Company Tuesday. Eight persons were injured slightly.

D. R. Dunlap, company president, said the plant was operating with a majority of the workers on the job, but that the situation was "still confused."

He said a number of Negroes left their jobs when white workmen were dismissed, and William T. Daly, industrial relations manager. Union officials said merely that No officers were closed and Dunlap said merely that some came back and some went. Regional director; John Bouche, and Charles Hanson, representatives of State Negro workers. Elijah Jackson, Negro International cards.

At a three-hour meeting Thursday night several conferees blamed CIO representative.

Meanwhile, armed reported to work on Thursday's shifts "well-organized rumors" for the dis- continued to guard after being sent home Tuesday following the disorders. At the same Representing the company were time a number of white workers Dunlap, J. M. Griser, vice presi- Guards remained in Mobile for any said. If protection is not ample, he continued, the WMC would have no

If ample protection is offered so dent, and numbers were dis- trial relations manage- director; Hanson, re-promised an answer Friday to Re- John Bouche, and gro workers applying for referral

MAY 28 1943

other county than to accede to their wishes to transfer to other jobs.

61-1943
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

Feel Commanding Officer's Inhumanity Provoked Riot

JAN 2 1943

TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 31—A riot outbreak here recently, in which a few colored soldiers were killed and others wounded, has been traced to friction between the 364th Infantry commanding officer, Colonel Wickham, and the men of his outfit.

The untoward event, careful investigation reveals, was precipitated by the soldiers discontentment over and resentment of inhuman treatment by their commanding officer. The bitterness was intensified and climaxed, it was learned, when the same cruel handling allegedly accorded men of the 364th Infantry was later accorded the Company B, 733rd Military Police Battalion assigned here, where it was also under direct charge of Colonel Wickham.

JAN 2 1943

INHUMAN CRUELTY CHARGED

A few of the charges against the commanding officer were that (1) he put men who reported late in the stockade; (2) guards would awaken soldiers in the stockade in the middle of the night, run them around, and shoot at their feet; (3) men were made to work all day and part of the night and sleep on hard floors. Numerous other charges were made.

The Courier has learned from a reliable source that the riot and the conditions alleged to have precipitated it have been under careful investigation of high military authorities since shortly after the occurrence.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Five Soldiers Sentenced in Riots Fatal to Three

FEB 17 1943

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 16 (AP).—Five Negro soldiers were sentenced to long terms at hard labor today by the general court martial trying 27 on charges growing out of a Thanksgiving day riot which led to three deaths and injuries to 11 others. Four of the soldiers were given 50 years each and a fifth was given 40 years.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

One Killed, One Hurt in Shooting at Huachuca

MAR 20 1943

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz.—Pvt. Carrol Webster of El Centro, Calif., suffered fatal gunshot wounds and Pfc. Kelvin S. Clark of Indianapolis, Ind., was wounded in the arm here last week in an altercation following a quarrel with another soldier.

MAR 20 1943

Military police are holding an unnamed soldier on charges of shooting the two men, both of whom were attached to Head-

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Soldiers Get 50 Years For Arizona Riot

FEB 28 1943

PHOENIX, Ariz., Feb. 25—On Tuesday a military court imposed sentences of 50 years at hard labor on four soldiers who participated in a riot in which three persons were killed in Phoenix last Thanksgiving night. A fifth man received a sentence of 40 years at hard labor.

FEB 28 1943

The men were the first of 27 to be brought to trial for the rioting. The other 22 will face a general court-martial within a few days.

FEB 28 1943

Apr. 3, 1943 The Informer

Soldiers To Hang

Informer, Houston, Tex.

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(ANP) — An unidentified soldier who participated in a Thanksgiving night riot here in which two civilians and an army lieutenant were killed, was sentenced to be hanged. The decision was made by an army court-martial.

4-3-43

Twenty-six other Negroes who participated in the riot are said to have been tried by court-martial. These were either cleared or given lesser sentences.

April 3, 43

The soldier will not be executed until a board of review has passed on the death sentence. His name will not be revealed until after the board acts.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

FOUR GET 50 YEARS

SOLDIERS MAY HANG FOR RIOT

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Apr. 1—(ANP)—An unidentified soldier who participated in a Thanksgiving night riot here in which two civilians and an army lieutenant were killed, was Thursday sentenced to be hanged. The decision was made by an army court-martial.

Twenty-six other Negroes who participated in the riot are said to have been tried by court-martial. These were either cleared or given lesser sentences.

APR 3 1943

The soldier will not be executed until a board of review has passed on the death sentence. His name will not be revealed until after the board acts.

Charges made against another 22 soldiers involved in the riot have not been tried by the court.

Two civilians and an Army lieutenant were killed in the rioting, which raged for two hours. More than 200 soldiers were questioned in connection with the riot and charges were filed against 27 of them.

An automatic appeal and review of the proceedings will be made by Lt. Gen. John L. Dewitt commanding general of the 4th Army and Western Defense Command it was announced. None of the sentences will take effect until the appeal and review are completed. Trial of the rest of the accused will start within a few days.

For Phoenix Riot TO SERVE 27 Others Face Trial

Three Died In Arizona Case

PHOENIX, Ariz., Feb. 16—Four Race soldiers found guilty of participating in the Thanksgiving night riots in which three persons died were sentenced Tuesday to 50 years at hard labor by a military court-martial. A fifth soldier was sentenced to 40 years at hard labor.

All were sentenced to forfeit pay and allowances and to receive dishonorable discharges from the Army, it was announced.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Last of 27 Soldiers In Phoenix Riot

PHOENIX, Ariz., Mar. 24 ....(Special) —An army general court martial recommended a death sentence Wednesday for the last of 27 Race soldiers tried in connection with a Thanksgiving Day street riot in which three persons were killed and 11 wounded. Seventeen of the soldiers have been recommended for sentences ranging from 10 to 50 years in military prison.

Twenty-eight blocks in the eastern end of the city still were being patrolled by armored cars at dawn and the last of the soldiers were being removed from houses.

More than 100 military and civilian police battled soldiers who had obtained guns and ammunition.

March 26, 1943

The trouble began about midnight with a fight between a trooper and a girl. The solider resisted arrest by a Colored military police and was shot. From then on the turmoil mounted.

A soldier John Teal, 30, and Robert Riley, 44 years old, civilian were killed. His body was found at the wheel of a car, a bullet wound in his head.

Seriously wounded was Lieut. August J. Essman, 39, of a white military police detail. He was shot in the abdomen.

3-26-43

The name of the soldier given the death sentence was not made known as his sentence will be subject to review by the President of the United States.

CITES LABOR DISCONTENTMENT AS CAUSE FOR NASSAU RIOTS

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.
FEB 6 - 1943
Bermuda

By RANDY DIXON
(Courier War Correspondent)

HAMILTON, Bermuda, Feb. 4—(Special)—Labor discontentment growing out of wage differentials superinduced by many contributing factors, have been officially listed as the causes of the June 1 riots at Nassau, in the Bahamas, in the 78-page report of the Royal Commission of Enquiry, published here Thursday.

The report, comprehensive in scope and recommending remedies and solutions as well as ferreting out and listing causes, also includes the first official list of casualties resulting from the mass clashes between native laborers and Bahama police, reinforced by members of the Cameron Highlanders.

The report lists three killed (one during curfew), six seriously wounded and 40 wounded not seriously.

Twenty-two of the rioters were tried in the higher court and 17 convicted and 58 were tried in the lower court with 50 convicted. In addition 43 were tried for curfew violations surrounding the riots, 47 being convicted.

The report reveals that American workmen helped foment the discontent by freely expressing their comments on the rate paid to Bahamian laborers. The report deplored the fact that police were armed only with "deadly weapons" and "had none of the harmless modern weapons such as tear gas."

The Commission's report recommends that "in order to bring labor legislation up to reasonable modern standards, laws should be enacted dealing with trade unions, workmen's compensation, shop assistants' hours of work and industrial and conciliation machinery."

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Five Soldiers Discharged, 5 Freed On Riot Charge

Philadelphia Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.
AUG 7-1943

TRINIDAD, B. W. I.—Five United States soldiers stationed here, convicted by a Court Martial on charges of rioting, were dishonorably discharged and sentenced to five years at hard labor.

Five other soldiers were acquitted. The trial lasted five days.

AUG 7 1943

Convicted were Pvts. Regie Brarsley, Charles N. Carney, Charles L. Croxton, Henry Dean and William Carney.

61-1943

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOS ANGELES

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

By Marion Bachrach

JUL 6 1943

THE so-called "zoot-suit" riots, which for almost two weeks terrorized the Mexican and Negro communities of Los Angeles, no longer make humorous copy for some of the nation's press.

First in Beaumont, and then in Detroit, the enemy shed the transparent "zoot-suit" disguise which diverted too many commentators. And we all see what we should long ago have seen in Los Angeles—the pattern of an organized Axis conspiracy to open a second front of civil war in the United States.

It is no longer necessary to argue the point many honest patriots refused to face two weeks ago—that the anti-Mexican outbreaks in Los Angeles were no freakish, "local" affair but on the contrary a danger signal to the whole nation. Yet the Los Angeles events do have their special local origins and significance, not isolating them, but tying them in more closely to the Axis grand strategy.

JUL 6 1943

The main "local" factor in the Detroit pogroms against the Negro people is the fact that Detroit happens to be the heart of our war production plants.

And the main "local" factor in the Los Angeles anti-Mexican pogroms is that Los Angeles happens to be the bridgehead to all of Latin America. There are 215,000 Mexicans in the Los Angeles area—the largest concentration anywhere in the world outside of Mexico City itself. These 215,000 have 3,000,000 Spanish-speaking cousins in other parts of the United States and 130,000,000 in Latin America.

It was only recently that President Roosevelt made his historic visit to Mexico, where he said, "Our two countries owe their independence to the fact that your ancestors and mine held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson."

For a whole year the West Coast enemies of Roosevelt and Wallace and of our nation's war policy have been preparing for the Los Angeles outbreaks. The descendants of Hidalgo and Juarez have been identified in the press, especially in the Hearst papers, as "hoodlums," "pachucos," "long-haired gangsters," and "zoot-suit killers." The first climax of this anti-Mexican campaign came last August, with the frame-up trial and conviction of seventeen Mexican-American boys in the Sleepy Lagoon murder case. This was a dress rehearsal for the recent riots.



"Step up, Folks! See the famous Siamese triplets, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Communism, and Anti-Negroism! They're colossal, they're fabulous, they're devastating!"

It was an official of the Los Angeles sheriff's office, Ed Duran Ayres, who in the course of the Sleepy Lagoon case argued the Nazi theory of "biological guilt." To him the sons of Hidalgo and Juarez, the countrymen of Cardenas and Camacho, are "wild cats" who must be caged, blood-thirsty killers incapable of alliance with the noble members of the "Saxon race."

JUL 8 1943

And it was this same Nazi race poison which was voiced by the Los Angeles cops as they egged American servicemen on to beat up the "greasers" in the Los Angeles streets.

The Axis conspiracy struck in Los Angeles because there it could strike not only at the domestic—but at the whole hemisphere—front. There it could hope to undermine that foundation of mutual respect and equality laid down by the President and the Vice-President—the only foundation on which true hemisphere unity for victory can be built.

The concept of Americanism proclaimed by Vice-President Wallace, an Americanism common to all the peoples of all the Americas, was badly battered in Los Angeles. In Los Angeles the Axis set out to prove that President Roosevelt lied when he said in Monterrey, "In the shaping of a common victory our people are finding that they have common aspirations. They can work for a common objective."

JUL 6 1943

Los Angeles is not only the key to Latin America, it is also a center for the Pacific Firsters, the defend-California-from-invasion boys whose military "strategy" leads to a negotiated peace. And to the Pacific Firsters we must look for the second special, "local" aspect of the Los Angeles outbreaks.

HOOVER lives in California, and so does Hearst. Martin Dies was out there, attacking the Roosevelt administration and whipping up hysteria against the interned Japanese, precisely at the moment when the anti-Mexican pogroms were raging.

There are no Japanese now at large in California. Most of the abandoned Japanese truck farms have been taken over and are being worked by Mexican labor imported under the guarantees of the United States-Mexican International Agreement.

The Pacific Firster maneuver was to merge anti-Japanese with anti-Mexican hatred. The Hearst press simultaneously screamed of the imminent threat of a Japanese invasion of California and the menace to California citizens of the "zoot-suit" gangs roving in "wolf-packs."

JUL 6 1943

As long ago as last September, Lieutenant Ayres of the sheriff's office laid the basis for the identification of our Mexican allies with our Japanese enemies. By a piece of anthropological legerdemain unequalled since Hitler "Aryanized" Tojo, Ayres "proved" that Mexicans are really "Orientals," and recalled that Kipling said East is East and West is West, etc.

A NEW attack on hemisphere unity and in the zero hour for the European second front, a last desperate try at diverting us to the Far East—these were the "local" reasons for the anti-Mexican pogroms in Los Angeles. These were the special tasks of the California fifth columnists, as the coal strikes were the special business of John L. Lewis and the Negro massacres of the Klan in Detroit.

These "local" factors merely emphasize the need for fighting the California fifth column on a national scale, for though the riots are over the danger is by no means past and it is a danger to the whole nation.

The answer to Hoover, Hearst, Dies, anti-Mexican investigating committee appointed by Governor Warren and headed by State Attorney General Kenny missed the point in its first report by failing to face squarely the specifically anti-Mexican character of the Los Angeles riots and the first torney Robert ity, the Hitlerism on the continent, this their peril to hemisphere unity, year, in coalition with our British and need is for greater clarity among public- As for the Pacific Firsters is to carry forward imp the Pacific policy of invading Europe and destroying Russian allies.

JUL 8 1943

the enemy-organized and nation-wide nature of the conspiracy. Mr. Kenny, a man of great intelligence, patriotism, and integrity, can perform an outstanding service to the country, if he will call on the federal government to assist him in uncovering and punishing the main organizers of the conspiracy in California.

In California, as elsewhere, this is a job requiring the full exercise of the President's broadest war powers. It is also a challenge to Attorney General Biddle and the FBI Swift prosecution of the thirty-three sedtionists long ago indicted and never brought to trial is essential. In addition, the native fascists and enemy agents in the Los Angeles police force should be prosecuted for treason. And the ties between California fifth columnists and the Sinarchists, the Mexican arm of Hitler's sabotage ring, must be exposed.

Members of the Mexican Congress and such anti-fascist leaders as Lombardo Toledano and Fidel Velasquez have long been fighting Sinarchism on their side of the border. For us, the fight against the Sinarchists must take the form of fighting our own fifth column, whose provocations against the Mexican people in the United States make all too plausible the Sinarchist lie that this is a "Yankee imperialist war," and that the "gringos" are still the main enemies of the Spanish-speaking Americans.

Such men as President Camacho of Mexico and Lombardo Toledano have done our cause an outstanding service by teaching their people to distinguish between the American people and their leaders on the one hand, and on the other the American enemies of America who are equally the enemies of Mexico.

Their task is made much easier when we ourselves speak out, as CIO Pres. Philip Murray did in his letter to President Roosevelt. Calling on the President to punish the perpetrators of the Los Angeles outrages, Murray wrote:

"Ostensibly this mob hysteria is vented on youths wearing 'zoot-suits.' Actually, the violence that has occurred is the work of a carefully planned campaign to stir up disunity and racial hatred aimed at one result, to give comfort to our enemies."

The parallel action of Mexican and United States labor, both correctly identifying the enemy and characterizing the outbreak as an Axis attack, is the most hopeful augury that has come out of the Los Angeles affair so far. But the heaviest burden falls on us, above all on labor in the United States. Only to the extent that we uphold the dignity of our fellow citizens of Mexican descent and fight against our own fifth column will labor in Latin America be able to say with conviction and with confidence: Roosevelt and Wallace truly speak for the people of the United States.

Miss Bachrach is the executive secretary of the Council for Pan-American Democracy.

Race Youth Followed Mexicans Into Fray

Daily World

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Long dreaded mob spirit and street rioting has at last gripped Los Angeles and is growing in intensity. Negro citizens are fearful that some act, directed towards or done by a rioting member of their race, will turn the whole tide into a race riot between colored and white, although the trouble started between white sailors and lawless young Mexicans who specialize in the wearing of extreme "zoot suits." The police department admits it is powerless to put a stop to the violence and all officers, colored and white, are on 24-hour call.

Trouble started with Saturday night, June 5, when 100 white sailors in cars and taxis swooped down on the North Broadway and North Main haunts of young Mexican zoot suit wearers to avenge assaults on sailors by gangs during the past two weeks. They met little resistence then, and 20 of the Mexicans were sent to hospitals. But the next night; hundreds of the Mexican zoot suiters organized and beat up, slashed and slugged a number of sailors. With increasing intensity every night, serious rioting has taken place, even down on Broadway in the theatre district.

DRAWN IN FIGHT

Negroes were not included at first, but through the agitation of young Mexicans among their colored friends they have been drawn into it until colored zoot suiters, both in groups and singly, have been attacked and given the customary treatment of "depantsing" or tearing off the peg-topped, tight-cuffed leg adornment. Partly naked, they, like the Mexicans, have been left to get to cover the best way they could. Also influenced by the Mexicans' procedure they have started roving in gangs, watching for sailors in the Central avenue Negro section. The town now is almost in a reign of terror, with windows of street cars being broken and shots fired into an interurban train and a white policeman trapped and perhaps fatally injured by Mexicans who ran him down in a car.

The effect on Hollywood and Los Angeles proper, concerns the movie folk who have to travel to and from the studios, the loss suffered by business as sailors now restrained by naval orders, cannot spend the thousands of dollars they have been doing in patronage of Los Angeles and Hollywood stores, eating places and night spots.

"THEY ARE VERY BOLD"

It is the habit of those groups of unrestrained youths to operate only when the coast is clear and there is no danger, the navy lads say. "They are very bold when they spy a lone sailor on a dark street," one declared.

New casualties and arrests brought the five-day zoot suit warfare toll to more than 150 injured and more than 500 pachucos and servicemen jailed. Two soldiers and a Negro zoot suiter were taken into custody after a riot at the corner of Second and Spring Sts., June 8.

Twelve Negroes ambushed a 17-year-old white high school student the same night, asked him if he was a "zoot-suiter" and when he said "no," the fight started.

The victim, Joe M. Stoddom, of Watts, received a five-inch cut on his left forehead, requiring six stitches at the Emergency Hospital.

Donald R. Mainhurst, white, seaman, 2-C, was beaten and kicked by eight Negro youths in zoot suits at Olympic Boulevard and Central Avenue. He was alone when attacked.

SECOND THOUGHTS

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois—By S. I. HAYAKAWA

Zoot Suits

I AM GOING to speak gravely today about a subject that most people regard either with ridicule or indignation, the zoot suits. You have been reading, no doubt, about the "war" between sailors and "zoot-suiters" in Los Angeles. The police out there have admitted that the situation has got "beyond their control."

It's obviously time someone tried to understand zoot-suiters, instead of just laughing at them, cussing them, or beating them up.

First, we've got to understand that the teen-age period is a dangerous age, during which society ought to do its best to see to it that boys and girls are given constructive channels in which to expend their vast energies.

At that age, when they are no longer "just kids" and are not yet "men and women," teen-age people are insecure. They desperately want to fit into the adult world.

And because these kids don't belong anywhere in our society, it is their symbol of belonging at least to the society of their own creation.

Victims of Discrimination

THAT IS why "zoot suits" are popular in the poorer sections of great cities, where the schools are the most crowded and people generally have the toughest time getting along. That is why Italian, Mexican kids in Los Angeles, and Negro youths in practically all large cities go in for "zoot suits."

What all those "zoot suits" mean to those who will take the trouble to understand is something like this: "Give us kids something SIGNIFICANT to do. Give us jobs besides car-laundries and shoe-shine parlors. Give us GOALS that we can work for.

"Stop dangling before our eyes all the glamor of American life in your movies, your advertisements, and your radio programs, at the same time as you tell us that we can't have any of it because we are 'wops,' or 'dagoes,' or 'niggers.' We've got the energy to work, to study, to build, to fight. Take us out of our meaningless street-life and GIVE US A CHANCE!"



S. I. Hayakawa

Symbolic Class of Life

MEN, says Alfred Korzybski, the author of "Science and Sanity," are a symbol-using class of life. Men run themselves on symbols — symbols of religion, symbols of social rank, national symbols, personal symbols.

Clothing is also symbolic. Witness the chauffeur's livery, the priest's robe, the uniform, the prisoner's stripes, as well as your clothes and mine, symbolize the way we regard ourselves, whether as "sports," "ladies," or "plain working men," "glamor girls," "gentlemen."

The "zoot suit" is not to be regarded just as "an extreme fashion," or "a crazy idea kids get." The "zoot suit" is a **symbol**. It is a symbol of youthful rebellion against the dreariness of slum life. It is a symbol of the dash and glory which these young people would LIKE to have, but CANNOT GET, and threw bottles through store

JUL 6 1943
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JUN 13 1943
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JUN 13 1943
JUN 13 1943
Atlanta, Georgia
Daily World
Baltimore, Md.
Afro-American
JUN 19 1943

200 Rioting Soldiers Turned Back by Guns

PITTSBURG, Cal., 1943 — A rioting crowd of 200 soldiers, who allegedly jostled white pedestrians and threw bottles through store windows, was dispersed by guns and nightsticks wielded by seventy-two men armed with sub-machine guns and nightsticks. The disorder, which was quieted by police Monday night, was the result of the attempt by military officials to prevent the soldiers from entering the Negro district. Camp Stoneman is located near Pittsburg.

Beaten For Doing His Duty

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

APR 10 1943

VALLEJO, Calif., April 1—A key man in the recent uprising among white and colored servicemen here was Benjamin Johnson, seaman guard, stationed at the Mare Island base, who was beaten up by white sailors as he attempted to arrest a white seaman who was not only intoxicated, but who was also not wearing his full uniform.

The last rioting early last month was the third such episode in less than 90 days. Previous interracial milling had occurred here on successive nights during the Christmas holidays.



BENJAMIN JOHNSON

WHITE SERGEANT AIDS

Johnson, during the attempted arrest of the resisting white sailor in last month's episode, was arrested by a white sergeant, also on patrol duty, and, after the excitement had subsided with no casualties or serious consequences, naval authorities highly commended both men for their heroism, quick action and excellent conduct in quelling what, except for rare efficiency, may have resulted in bloodshed and lives lost.

APR 3 1943

As a result of the brilliant piece of work by Johnson, civic leaders who formed a committee desiring more Negro patrolmen were successful in having naval authorities appoint 40 additional colored seaman guards to patrol duties.

Zoot-Rioting Soldiers Face Army Trials

New York, N. Y. World-Telegram

JUN 11 1943

By WILLIAM C. PAYETTE,
United Press Staff Correspondent

LOS ANGELES, June 11.—Maj. Gen. Maxwell Murray, commanding the Southern California sector of the Western Defense Command, promised swift punishment today for all military personnel participating in street fighting with zoot-suited hoodlums.

"The necessary steps are being taken by me to control military personnel," General Murray announced, "and any such personnel found guilty of riotous conduct will be adequately punished by military court."

The general issued the statement as the week-long violence subsided to a few minor incidents, including the attack by four of the zoot-pleated youths on a defense worker, Galen V. Krewson, 46. He was knocked down, kicked and beaten as he waited for a street car.

San Diego police jailed a dozen zoot-suiters during the night—mostly for their own protection—after 50 sailors, marines and soldiers had mobbed them in the Mexican district.

When they appeared in court this morning on disorderly conduct charges, all showed up with shaven heads. One had a distinct "V" shaved down the middle of his head.

The servicemen were released by shore patrols and military police after being taken to the jail to "cool off."

Objects to 'Riot Action.'

The army seriously objects to any group taking the law into his own hands," General Murray said, "or to any semblance of riot action.

The American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement from its southern California branch describing the zoot suit incidents as "the most serious race riots which have occurred anywhere in the United States during the war."

The organization said it would furnish counsel to Mexican and Negro youths arrested and prosecuted in connection with the recent riots.

Authorities concentrated today on the dark-eyed cholitas who vowed they would take up the street fighting where their male zoot-suited counterparts were being forced to drop it.

Garbed in midnight black, they vowed to carry the battle against servicemen and police "until one side or the other is wiped out."

Three of them attacked a waitress coming out of a downtown tunnel, knocked her down, and slashed her with a razor. They fled when an unidentified man ran to her aid. The victim, Miss Betty Morgan, 22, bore several cuts and was taken to emergency hospital.

The cholitas, auxiliaries of the zoot suit gangs which for months have made walks on dimly lighted streets a risky affair, insisted they would not be disarmed.

JUN 11 1943

Although servicemen have been ripping the zoot clothing from the male mobsters, such treatment of the feminine branch presented a problem.

"Nobody is going to take my outfit off me," a cholita told police.

NEW VALLEJO RIOT QUELLED BY TOMMY GUNS

Chicago Defender

MAR 27 1943

Chicago, Illinois

350 Mobbed in Third West Coast Outbreak; Seek Army Action

MAR 13 1943

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—With the minds of local citizens again disturbed over a riot at Vallejo, Calif., involving colored and white servicemen early Saturday morning, leaders are casting about for some steps that can be taken to prevent what may in the future develop into major proportions with great loss of life.

Figures had not been released by police of the Bay cities as to how many Negroes were injured in this latest riot, involving 350 of both races, but the fact that only the arrival of 20 marines armed with sub-machine guns quelled the fighting, leaves no doubt that some were among the casualties.

MAR 13 1943

Whites Hamper Good Will

According to Nate George, former Whittier college track star, now director of a USO center in that area, there is always possibility of ill-feeling between the races breaking out into violence at Vallejo, Salinas, or other points there because of the attitude of the whites from the southern states.

They are, he says, invariably bitter and outspoken in their hateful remarks about Negroes, and angrily resent any evidence on their part to treat them as superiors. In fact says George, who was here to attend the Marian Anderson concert last week, there are two occasions when he might have been beaten himself had he not been physically able to defend himself.

MAR 13 1943

Asks Army Action

Because this is the third riot in less than three months, George suggests some special order by the war department with severe penalties attached, as the only way to prevent trouble. Racial problems frequently arise in the USO house, under his direction, because he absolutely refuses to favor one nationality over another in this all-nation recreation spot.

MAR 13 1943

The demonstration Saturday started soon after midnight, when all California bars must close. Police Chief Earl Dierking said a Negro shore-patrol officer attempted to put an intoxicated white sailor into a taxi. The sailor refused to enter, he said.

The navy policeman and the white sailor exchanged blows, Chief Dierking said, and service men poured into the street from about 200 bars in the area and took up the fight. Shore patrol and military police took three men into custody. Vallejo police made no arrests.

U. S. Gov't Asked To Remedy "Zoot Suit" Riot Evils

Houston Informer, Texas

JUN 19 1943

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The prompt action of Attorney General Robert Kenney of California in quelling and curbing the recent "zoot suit" attcaks was commended this week by Walter White, executive secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a letter to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of Navy Frank Knox and Attorney General Francis Biddle of the Department of Justice.

Banning Not Sufficient

Merely banning members of the armed services from areas in which rioting has occurred is not sufficient, White pointed out. He urged that corrective action be taken against the rioters whether wearing zoot suits or the uniform of the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard or Marines. "Otherwise these members of the armed services," he said, "will believe the wearing of the uniform gives them license to act as arbiters of how civilians may dress, speak, act, or think. The inevitable result will be anarchy and complete collapse of democratic government."

Stating that it is superficial and childish to attribute acts of this character solely to modes of dress, White explained that many zoot suiters wear such clothing to compensate a sense of being rejected by society and that the wearers are almost invariably the victims of poverty, proscription, and segregation.

"Perhaps even more disturbing a factor in the Los Angeles rioting is that the attacks have been primarily upon Mexicans, Negroes, and other non-white groups. Preliminary reports to this office indicate that a very large percentage of the attackers are southern whites who are utilizing as excuse the garb worn by the victims of these attacks.

Take Firm, Quick Action

"We, therefore, urge vigorously that responsible agencies of federal and state governments take firm and immediate action against all persons responsible for the rioting and, equally important, take immediate steps to correct the fundamental social evils of employment, housing, segregation, proscription and recreation which lead young people—Mexican, white and Negro—to dress themselves in a fashion to compensate for the sense of rejection and bewilderment from which many American youths suffer in the period of uncertainty and chaos through which we are now passing."

Warning To Zoot Suiters

Chicago Defender (An Editorial) Chicago, Illinois

JUN 19 1943

ZOOT SUITS today have become synonymous with bad conduct, loud talking, violence and crime.

Zoot suits no more represent the Negro than watermelon, dice, switch blades or muggings.

The wave of violence against zoot suiters on the West Coast has a lesson for Negro communities. Unjustified as the attacks are, they still strike home the immediate need for drastic action to curb the unbridled minority of our race that is giving us a bad name. They show that zoot suits are a community, rather than an individual affair.

So put the zoot suits in moth balls, fellows—at least for the duration.

61-1943
Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

RIOT FOLLOWS STABBING OF A NEGRO SAILOR

JAN 1 - 1943

75 Involved In Calif. Brawl

VALLEJO, Calif., Dec. 29—Police and military guards broke up a riot between Negro sailors and civilians and white marines on the Vallejo waterfront Saturday night after three sailors were seriously stabbed.

Armed Marine riot squads searched Vallejo bars after the brawl and ordered all sailors to their bases and sent all civilians home.

Police said more than 75 persons were involved in the fight.

Samuel Dyer, 30 Negro, and Victor Teach, 18, white, both civilians were arrested.

Names of the wounded sailors, were not disclosed.

Police said the fight grew out of an argument between a Negro sailor and a white Marine on Friday night. A group of Marines, incensed because the sailor brandished a knife, returned to the "Skid Row" section of Vallejo last night intending to "clean up" the Negro.

Teach said he "pitched in" to help the Marines because some of the foe's were welding knives.

before order was restored by armed marines and civilian authorities.

A second riot started on Sunday when marine military police charged on a night club where Negro service men were gathered. They opened fire with Tommy guns and two men were wounded in the firing.

They were Leo Arthur Shaw, 18, and George Carpenter, 26.

Police closed all barrooms and cafes in the district and all servicemen were ordered to return to their ships and stations immediately.

The Negro sailors involved had arrived just a few days ago.

Samuel Dyer, 30, a Negro civilian, was arrested in the fighting Saturday night.

The trouble is believed to have started Christmas night with a fight between a Negro sailor and a marine.

JAN 2 1943

Police said a group of marines returned to the Skid Row section after the fight between the two, threatening to "clean up" the Negroes.

While no serious injuries were reported, four white sailors were treated for knife wounds at the naval hospital at Mare Island, and two civilians, one white, were arrested when they refused to obey orders of police to leave the area.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Marines And Sailors In Race Clash West Coast

VALLEJO, Cal. — What is believed to have been the first racial clash involving sailors and marines occurred here Saturday when 200 fought for a half hour in the streets and bar rooms along the waterfront

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

U. S. Navy Dept. Probes Vallejo, Calif. Riots

NAACP Urges Punishment Of Instigators

JAN 5 - 19

CALIFORNIA

VALLEJO, Calif.—(S N S)—The wounding of two Negro cooks during the riots December 26-27 involving some 275 Negro and white sailors and a few civilians here brought from the NAACP in New York the following telegram to Secretary of Navy Knox:

"Attack by southern whites on Negro sailors and civilians to prevent latter from continuing as in past to use places of public accommodation in Vallejo, California, emphasizes again necessity for stronger policy by Navy Department in summarily punishing those who attempt to enforce southern racial patterns on northern communities. It is ironic and disheartening to read press statements that the disturbance was quelled when marines turned machine guns on the Negroes. It is also significant that only Negroes were injured, when the evidence seems to establish that white southerners were the aggressors in attacking Negro patrons of tavern. Court-martial and punishment to full extent of law in this and similar cases will do more than anything else to prevent further outbreak. respectfully urge such action."

Following the disturbance 1800 Negro sailors were confined to quarters at Mare Island Navy Yard while authorities investigated the rioting in a town in which before the wartime influx of workers and marines and white sailors from Texas, Oklahoma and other southern states, there was no apparent prejudice against Negroes, no segregation so far as restaurants and bars were concerned.

JAN 5 - 19

The first fight on Saturday night, December 26, which seemed to crop out of a false report that a white marine had been stabbed by a Negro sailor, followed mounting complaints of discrimination against Negroes. Negro sailors had complained that they were being barred from restaurants, bars and other public places. The injured Negroes, Leo Shaw, 18, and George Carpenter 26, were first taken to Vallejo Hospital where they told the attendants they were "innocent bystanders" and had nothing to do with the fighting. Later they were removed to Mare Island Hospital.

OUTBREAK EXPECTED; WILKINS DECLARES:

NEW YORK—The outbreak at Vallejo, California, was "in the cards" and its occurrence is "no surprise," it was declared here by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP, who returned two weeks ago from a two months tour of the Pacific Coast.

"I was in Vallejo on November 9," said Mr. Wilkins, "and Negro sailors who had been transferred there from the Great Naval Training Station were already bitterly complaining about the treatment they were receiving from citizens and white sailors. The heavy influx of southerners into California cannot be imagined; it has to be seen. In addition, the fact that Mare Island Navy Yard is located there means that large numbers of white sailors, mostly southerners, are in and out of town. There had been several minor clashes before I arrived and the colored sailors with whom I talked were in no mood to stand much more of the insults they were receiving on every hand. Restaurants were asking them to 'take out' sandwiches White sailors were openly taunting them on the streets or beating them up if Negroes were not in a large group.

"This news is no surprise to me. The colored lads held a special meeting with me after the regular mass meeting was over and declared flatly they were not going to stand the treatment any longer, saying they thought the organizations and newspapers ought to get the Washington officials to do something about it and if nothing was done they would use their own judgment."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

400 Negro Sailors, Marines Riot After Fight In Barroom

JAN 2 - 1943

VALLEJO, Cal. — Order was restored out of chaos here on Sunday night only after the bullets from the tommygun of a military policeman wrote finish to a weekend of rioting which took place between Negro and white service men in the waterfront amusement area.

According to reports from authorities, 400 service men of both races poured into the district, with more than half that number becoming engaged in street and bar-room fights, Saturday night.

JAN 2 1943

The whites were United States marines and sailors. The half-hour riot ending without severe injuries to anyone, although four white sailors were taken to the Mare Island Naval Hospital with knife wounds. A white civilian and one Negro civilian were held in the city jail on charges of refusing to obey police orders to leave the district. All Negro sailors were ordered to their barracks or ships by the Navy.

Police said the riot had probably arisen from a quarrel between a white Marine and a Negro sailor on the waterfront Christmas night. Saturday, they said, 200 Negro sailors massed in front of a night club and advanced into the street, prepared to "clean up the town."

A half block away, a marine patrol ordered them to halt. When they disobeyed, authorities said, a marine fired seven slugs from his tommygun, hitting two of the Negro sailors.

BULLETIN
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Two Negro Sailors Wounded In California Race Riot

JAN 2 - 1943

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Latest advices from the disturbance which broke out last week-end in the waterfront district of Vallejo, California and involved four hundred white Marines and Negro sailors.

Police Chief Earl Dirking commented on Tuesday that white sailors and civilians, mostly southern-born, who work in the adjoining Mare Island Navy Yard "resent the liberties the colored sailors are receiving in Vallejo, and never miss an opportunity to lord it over colored men."

The police officer said that Negro sailors had recently visited areas of the city from which whites have restricted them.

Severely wounded were Leo Shaw, 18 and George Carpenter, 26, cooks second class. Several other rioters were bruised and battered.

All restaurants and bars in the city were closed by the military.

Marine and navy shore patrols are guns. The S. P. fired into the crowd of Negro sailors when they on guard in Vallejo streets to pre-

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Police Break Up Service Men's Riot in Vallejo

MAR 10 1943

VALLEJO, Calif., March 6. — Civilian police sent out a riot call early today and with the help of Military Police quickly put down street fighting among several score service men.

Police Chief Earl Dierking said four men were taken to their military posts for treatment of minor cuts and bruises, and three service men were taken in custody by the Navy Shore Patrol.

MAR 10 1943

Chief Dierking said the trouble started shortly after the midnight closing of bars along Vallejo's Georgia Street. A Negro Navy shore patrolman attempted to put a drunken white sailor in a cab to send him to his post, the chief said. The sailor resisted and part of the estimated 300 service men in the vicinity chose sides and started slugging. Dierking declared. The only Negro involved was the shore patrolman.

Third Riot In Vallejo

MAR 13 1943

VALLEJO, Cal., Mar. 11—Two white sailors and one colored serviceman, the names of whom were not revealed, were arrested Saturday morning as whites and Negro sailors and soldiers rioted here again for the third time in three months. The first racial outbreak took place December 27, followed by a similar rioting episode the next night.

MAR 13 1943

In the most recent clash, 350 servicemen and civilians of both races were dispersed by Marines armed with sub-machine guns in an effort to end the demonstration which occurred in Vallejo's notorious Barbary Coast area, which, according to information, contains more than 200 licensed drinking places and a large number of illegal liquor and gambling establishments.

MAR 13 1943

SAILOR RESISTS PATROLMAN

The fight Saturday resulted when a colored shore patrol officer tried to put a drunken white sailor into a taxicab. The sailor and the Navy policeman exchanged blows and, immediately, white and colored servicemen poured out of the saloons and joined in the melee. Unable to quell the fight with his force of civilian police, Chief of Police Earl Dierking broadcast a riot call, a platoon of Marines arrived and stopped the rioting without firing.

NO SERIOUS INJURIES

A number of participants were wounded, but none seriously enough to require overnight hospitalization.

The most serious of the three local riots was the December 28 episode in which two Navy cooks, both colored, were shot.

Taxicab Battle Empties Bars, Brings Tars

MAR 13 1943

"The Peoples Voice"
New York N.Y.

VALLEJO, Calif.—The third public fracas within three months took place here, Saturday, ending in the arrest of three men and the summoning of Marines armed with submachine guns to disperse a rioting crowd of 400 Negro and white civilians.

MAR 13 1943

The trouble started shortly after midnight. Police Chief Earl Dierking said a Negro shore-patrol officer tried to put an intoxicated white sailor into a taxi. The sailor refused to enter the cab, and the two men started to exchange blows. The commotion brought a couple hundred Negro and white servicemen out of various bars in the immediate vicinity and a free-for-all started.

MAR 13 1943

The last disturbance was Dec. 28 when marines and shore patrolmen fired into a crowd of Negro and white sailors, wounding two Negro and Navy cooks.

TROUBLE IN ALABAMA

Meanwhile, at Gadsden, Alabama, Negro soldiers located at Camp Seibert clashed with local police when the police entered a soldier's club in town and began using blackjacks and pistols.

There was no disturbance in the club when police entered, it is reported, but citizens of Gadsen, a town with a long record of persecuting labor leaders and Negro organizations, have resented presence of the colored soldiers and are also reported to use every opportunity to abuse them, especially servicemen from northern states.

MAR 13 1943

61-1943

California

'Pacific Firsters' Incite Coast Riots

Daily Worker, New York City

JUN 12 1943

By George Morris

Behind the great press build-up of the "zoot suit menace" is the work of the fifth column—of the Pacific First crowd, of William Randolph Hearst and of all those who want to see the country divided and hampered in its war effort.

New Yorkers can practically picture the situation in Los Angeles for our local headlines about Harlem "muggers" have come close to accomplishing similar events here.

It's all part of a general pattern. Within less than two weeks we have the "zoot suit" events in Los Angeles County spreading to Philadelphia, Baltimore; the KKK strike against upgrading of Negroes at the Packard Motor Car Co.; the strike at Mobile, Alabama shipyards growing out of anti-Negro race incitement and only two days ago, the virus spread to a Brooklyn plant where an unauthorized walkout occurred against Negroes.

Manifestations of race hatred and anti-Semitism which is its twin evil, are not new to America. But the flare-up of race incitement today is not due to an increase of race hatred. On the contrary, there is evidence that America is beginning to recognize that Negro, Mexican, Chinese or any other minority groups have a full right to share in citizenship and contribute to victory.

JUN 12 1943

The recent changes in the Fair Employment Practices Committee, giving it teeth to wipe out discrimination in hiring; the ruling of the War Labor Board barring pay differentials due to race and such great demonstrations for Negro rights as the Madison Square Garden rally of last Monday, are clear enough evidence.

Further stories of the Hearst-Pacific First anti-war incident against Mexicans in the California area appear on page 4.

What we have is not only an attempt to arouse resistance to such trend, but a merger of all the forces of race hatred and bigotry into a cesspool of defeatism. From coast to coast they are being signaled to do their dirty work now—now when the first chunk of Axis Europe fell to Allied forces and the real offensive is about to get under way.

HEARST CULTIVATES HATRED

Hearst has long cultivated a situation in California that gives him the fertile ground for his present-day campaign. As long as Hearst journals have been known on the west coast they have been known for their incitement against Mexicans. Hearst, more than any one else, contributed to picturing America to the Mexicans as an imperialist boss over them. The expropriation of Hearst properties in Mexico by the government has added all the more to the fury of the king of Saint Simeon.

JUN 12 1943

Hearst expresses the will of the large growers who want to keep a Mexican down as the Southern planters keep down the Negroes. The bulk of California's agricultural workers are Mexicans. Hearst was the principal instigator of the terror against agricultural workers that followed the 1933-34 strikes.

INCITEMENT IN LOS ANGELES

With 360,000 people of Mexican origin residing in Los Angeles County, the area is the principal center of Mexicans in the United States. Events in Los Angeles are of general interest in Mexico. They have much to do with showing the people what we mean by the "good neighbor" policy.

Thanks to Hearst's two L. A. papers and the Los Angeles Times which is much like the defeatist Chicago Tribune there is anything but a neighborly atmosphere in Los Angeles. Segregation, job discrimination, terror, ostracism apply to them as to the Negroes in most areas.

The mental state of some Los Angeles authorities can be gauged by the report of the "foreign relations" officer of the L. A. sheriff's office, Duran[illegible] Ayres, some time ago who entered into a biological diatribe to "prove" that Mexicans are "orientals." From that, he concluded that they have the "lust for blood" of the orientals.

SINARQUISTA TIEUP

While Hearst and his kind work from the so-called "American" angle, the Sinarquistas, Mexico's fifth column movement with a program modelled on that of Father Coughlin's, is operating from the "Mexican" angle. Los Angeles is a center of activity of this movement. Through it the Mexican people are told that this is not their war, that the Camacho government is a "puppet" of the United States and that all aid should be given to overthrow the present government. On May 23 the Sinarquistas, operating openly in Los Angeles, held a banquet where leaders voiced their conspiratorial program.

JUN 12 1943

Hearst and the pro-Axis Sinarquistas understand each other perfectly and their programs both with respect to Mexico and the United States fit together perfectly. They each have a hand in promoting hostility and disruption.

The point here is not to identify American service men and others who engaged in the shameful attacks upon Mexicans as followers of Hearst. Nor are Mexican youths who defend themselves Sinarquistas. Prejudice, past and newly inspired, is being whipped up to a white heat to incite the present unfortunate events. The same West Coast newspaper technique that was so well organized to break the waterfront and agricultural strikes, was involved now and it was quickly spread to the entire country. All the familiar tricks are being employed.

SERVICE MEN EXPLOITED

The incitement aims to pit uniformed men against Mexicans and Negroes, as though it was a war against the enemy on home territory. The "zoot suit" designation to the supposed rowing gangs is for no other purpose than to hide race incitement.

An important element in this picture, is the race incitement that the same defeatist forces are whipping up to further their "Pacific First" campaign. The "zoot suit" events presaged the arrival of the Dies Committee which is now holding hearings on Japanese fifth column activities. This came in response to a high-powered newspaper drive against an alleged threat that Japanese now in relocation centers would be returned to Los Angeles. The Roosevelt administration is the target. According to the hysterical race propaganda, Washington knows nothing about Pacific Coast problems and dangers, having left it to the mercy of the Japanese and other orientals." Therefore, according to the line of propaganda, Pacific Coast citizenry must "take matters into its own hands."

THREAT TO UNITY

There is now much talk of investigation, which, it is expected will come from Federal, local and State agencies. But in the meantime, hundreds of Mexican youths have been thrown into jail. Many were beaten, stripped naked before spectators and otherwise displayed for ridicule. All that takes the headlines in Mexico and Latin American countries. Of course it promotes very "friendly neighborliness." We are worried about our food program and the shortage of agricultural manpower. Much hope has been put on the agreement between the U. S. and Mexican governments for transfer of 100,000 Mexican workers to this country. The "zoot suit" affair won't help that either.

There is only one way to show the world that Hearst and his allies do not act or speak for America and that is to crack down on the real instigators of race riots. This is a duty of the federal government particularly. This means to get after the defeatists of every stripe and driving the fifth column plotters against Mexico from our soil.

Furthermore, it means more definite steps to show all minority groups here whether they be Mexicans or Negroes, that they are Americans with full and equal rights. All must be drawn into the common struggle to beat the Axis.

JUN 12 1943

ROGERS SAYS...

Zoot-Suit Craze, Originated By a Young Negro, Signifies The Revolt of Youth

BY J. A. ROGERS

Education, Entertainment, Etc.

THE zoot suit for the past few weeks, has been receiving almost as much publicity as the war. Even two white zooters, still in their teens, shot down in cold blood in a New York public school and were sentenced to life terms; and it received impetus when its flappy style gave to white sailors and soldiers in an excuse to vent their race hate on Negro and Mexican youths. "The existence of race prejudice in these attacks cannot be ignored," said Governor Warren of California. The Mexican government has informed the United States that it will expect reparations; all the Negro Americans may expect are the beatings they have received, the loss of their



Mr. Rogers

terbugs stormed the mount theatre and walks for block to Harry James. They wild over him, with me, because a out of James' playing noise, annoying blows his—and civilization would much as by a hair.

ZOOT SUIT IS A REVOLT OF YOUTH

A FEW weeks ago New York was treated to an amazing spectacle when these zooters and jitter

week they were just short 85 cents for the rent of the shack in which they lived. Then along comes the war, and their cook, who used to get $1.75 a week, gets work in a cafeteria at $22.50. The weeping of Mrs. Massa, who, for lack of servants, has to close up her home and move to a hotel, is most affecting.

the white elite will be wearing it, too. White America, though affecting to despise Negroes, copies them in so many ways. Remember how in the last war jazz and the "charleston," which started in Negro dives, found their way into the drawing rooms of the "four hundred" in England and America? White women singers have so got down the blues nowadays that you'd hardly imagine that Negroes originated them.

THE zoot suit is not only a style; it is a revolt of callow youth against convention and authority. As such, however, it is at best but a shallow-brained revolt, and typical of the mentality of the wearers. In short, zoot revolt gets the Negro group nowhere.

A YOUNG MAN WITH INITIATIVE

As against this, I want to mention the work of one young Negro, who has been doing, on his own initiative, some of the finest and most constructive work of its kind. Realizing that ignorance—ignorance of both white and colored on the race question—is the root of the trouble, he set about to correct it in the best way he knew. Getting a little printing press, he had the type set up and ran off thousands of pamphlets. Those for distribution to Negroes, he called, "Negro, What Do You Know About Yourself?" while those for white people, he called "White Man, What Do You Know About the Negro?"

THOSE pamphlets addressed to Negroes he sold for 15 cents, but those to white people, he gave away. He sent them—at his own expense—to white colleges and libraries over the country, and gave them away to thousands of white soldiers. Going to railroad stations or the exits from ferry-boats, he handed them out to the soldiers as they passed. Once a white officer, seeing him giving them to the men, questioned him rather sharply. He gave the officer one. The latter glanced at it, liked it, and asked him for five more.

ALIENIST TELLS WHAT AILS MIND OF ZOOT SUITERS

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(ANP)—Alarmed by the city-wide rioting between Mexican "zooters" and white sailors that has drawn Negroes into the melee, city, state and county authorities are racking their brains to find just what connection the wearing of the fantastic attire has on the minds of the juveniles who affect it. In this regard, Dr. Joseph Catton of San Francisco was called upon for a scientific analysis.

Dr. Catton, nationally known psychiatrist, said the reactions of service men in Los Angeles against zoot-suit wearers was "perfectly normal."

"Uncle Sam," explained Dr. Catton, "has said to the man in uniform—'You are sound of mind and body. You are a picture of the real American youth' . . . The service man feels a righteous pride in military garb. He comes to resent any class which gives a distorted impression of the Americanism which he represents.

JUN 19 1943

Press Blamed for Spread of Zoot Suit Riots

Officials Attack Inflammatory Reports . . .

Los Angeles Council Bans Zoot Garb

PM
New York, N. Y.

By PETER FURST
Staff Correspondent

JUN 10 1943

LOS ANGELES, June 10.—Inflammatory stories in the Los Angeles newspapers were blamed today for aggravating the race clashes between Mexican youths and American sailors which culminated in the City Council's action last night prohibiting anyone from wearing a zoot suit.

Mexican officials, a committee of nationally known lawyers and Government officials agreed today that the press here is at least 75 per cent responsible for the situation which got so far out of control of city officials that military authorities declared the entire city out of bounds for service men.

The press here, which includes two Hearst newspapers, has planted the idea in the minds of sailors and civilians here that every street fight or barroom brawl is a "zoot suit war" and that the bizarre costume is the badge of a gangster.

Label Spreads

This label, of course, is by implication extended to all Mexicans and Negro youths, who affect suits, and even some white youths.

As the Hearst *Herald and Express* said yesterday—a statement which is typical—the zoot-suiters are "bent on hurting innocent bystanders."

Unquestionably some of these youths have not been blameless for the trouble here—the worst race riot in the history of the Southwest. But the sailors aren't innocent either.

'Avenging Buddies'

The press has suppressed many details of the fights in such a way as to exalt the sailors for "avenging their buddies." This has happened in cases where lone Mexican or Negro boys were dragged out of theaters, even some who were not wearing zoot suits.

In the first two days of the riots the newspapers even treated the whole thing as a joke and applauded the service men for cleaning up a situation the police had been unable to control. Indeed, many Mexicans took the same view, hoping it would end the gang fights between bands of youths.

JUN 10 1943

Both the newspapers and the Mexican community changed their minds as the situation got out of hand; still the press placed all the blame on the local youths, thereby encouraging service men to continue their "defense" of "their threatened comrades."

Military policemen, who know the truth, say 3000 servicemen were roaming the streets looking for zoot-suiters at the height of the rioting.

The Mexicans and Negroes also blame the newspapers. I know, because I have been touring the East Side during the riots. On one occasion I went to Central Ave., the Los Angeles Harlem.

We encountered a young Negro.

"You gonna take pictures of us so you can put them in them damn Hearst papers and call us gangsters again?" he demanded. "You won't take no pictures here and make us look like murderers to white people—too damn much prejudice, that's what."

A crowd collected and a Negro military policeman intervened.

Soldier's Story

"Better leave," he advised. "The feeling here runs pretty strong on the subject of newspapers. Every one here blames the newspapers. If there is any more trouble and any more colored boys get beaten up, I wouldn't like to be in the shoes of a white sailor in this district. These boys here are peaceful guys, but now, after this, there's no telling what they will do."

A Negro soldier, Leo Johnson, 19, of Pomona, Cal., told me:

"I was walking down the street near the bus station to get my ticket to the camp. A bunch of white sailors and soldiers and marines suddenly came up to me—there must have been 40 or 50—and one of them said, 'what you doing here?' I said I'm a soldier and on leave and I got a right to be here.

Gets Bus Ticket

"Then I said I was going to the bus station to get my ticket back to camp, and they said, 'well, boy you just be sure to get that ticket and get the hell out of town.' So I figured I am a soldier, and fighting for my country, and I have a right to leave when I wanted and I said so. They they moved up, but a police car came by and they left. Why in hell should I go back to fight when this is happening to my friends, and even to me, and I ain't wearing no zoot suit, I am wearing Uncle Sam's uniform."

Many Negro and Mexican soldiers have overstayed their leave to, as they say, protect their families from the mobs.

The Los Angeles City Council outlawed zoot suits last night. The clipping reproduced here shows that the WPB did it eight months ago.

A 20-year-old Negro taking pre-flight training at the University of California told me:

"I was coming home on the street car tonight when a big bunch of sailors got on, moved along to where I sat. In the seat across from me there was a young Mexican shipyard worker with a helmet and work clothes. They dragged the Mexican kid out of the car. Outside he was undressed completely, and his clothes taken away. Then he was beaten and kicked around.

They came up to me, and one guy said "you one of them zoot suiters too?" I said no, and pointed to my clothes, ordinary street clothes. I said I was in the Air Corps Reserve and they said they didn't care a damn what I was. Then they dragged me off, and the street car went on. Outside they moved in on me, but then a police car drove by, and they left."

JUN 10 1943

Time
Chicago, Illinois
Zoot-Suit Riots

Sirs:

. . . Your story of "Zoot-Suit War" in Los Angeles [TIME, June 21] certainly "jumped the gun" on facts. No mention of the several murders committed by "zoot-suit gangs"; no mention of unprovoked attacks by them; no mention of barbarded knives and brass knuckles found in their possession when "not doing anything"; no mention of two single women in different parts of the city beaten by female gang members. . . .

CONSTANCE C. CLOTFELTER
Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

JUL 12 1943

Your condemnation of the press, however, should not have been restricted to Mr. Hearst's notorious [Los Angeles Examiner] and the [Los Angeles] Daily News. As a listener and broadcaster for a of Station KGIR and the Z-Bar network, I have ample opportunity to peruse the wire service of the United Press. During the whole deplorable episode it was as if we were getting a Hearst Service straight from the office of the *Examiner*. . . .

ROBERT N. PINKERTON

Sirs:

With regard to zoot-suit disorders in Los Angeles, I think you have exaggerated the race angle out of all proportion. It is true that Mexican and Negro boys wear zoot suits out on the coast perhaps more than others. But to a soldier who has been taken from his home and put in the Army, the sight of young loafers of any race, color, creed, religion or color of hair loafing around in ridiculous clothes that cost $75 to $85 per suit is enough to make them see red.

You know they are loafers because no . . . business has driven them to work in upstanding and worthy Mexican for the only such fantastic outfits. If you are a serviceman with a few dollars in your pocket, you also know that some of them are ready to hoist

If the Mexicans and Negroes and all the rest of the zoot-suit fraternity want to avoid trouble, there is a very simple way. Just get out of a zoot suit and into a uniform or a suit and you are no longer conspicuous.

(Pvt.) KENNETH KING
Kearney, Neb.

JUN 12 1943

Sirs:

I am sure that in addition to my thanks you into an alley and roll you. . . .

TIME will receive those of many a loyal, sincerely honest picture of the recent "zoot-suit" atrocity that I, for one, have had the opportunity to read.

61-1943

California

SECOND THOUGHTS

Defender Chicago Ill.

By S. I. HAYAKAWA

The "Zoot Suit" War

SO THE CITY COUNCIL of Los Angeles is hot and bothered, and has forbidden the wearing of "zoot suits" in that city? So the police are admitting that the "war" between the sailors and the "zoot suiters" has got "beyond their control"? So the Mexican government is protesting the persecution of their nationals? So the whole town of Los Angeles is in a turmoil?



S. I. Hayakawa

With the lack of intelligence displayed all around, no wonder there's a mess.

Zoot suiters are usually underprivileged kids; many of them are victims of discrimination. Their clothes, as I argued last week, are a strange but understandable expression of their discontent with the meaninglessness of slum life.

Some — perhaps many — zoot suiters are delinquents. And tough city kids are hard to handle, reat-pleats or no pleats.

How The Mess Began

LET'S NUMBER our sailors and our zoot suiters so we can follow the course of events. Sailor (A) gets beaten up by zoot suiters (1) and (2). Sailors (B) and (C), friends of sailor (A), decide to avenge their pal. They meet zoot suiters (3) and (4), who are innocent, and beat them up. Thereupon zoot suiters (3) and (4), righteously indignant for having been beaten up for something they hadn't done, collect their friends, zoot suiters (5) and (6). Then the four of them beat up sailors (D), (E), and (F), who also hadn't done anything.

By this time ALL sailors assume that ALL zoot suiters are thugs; ALL zoot suiters assume that ALL sailors are their enemies. No wonder hell breaks loose.

How about the police while these storm clouds were gathering? The key to the situation is revealed in a United Press dispatch dated June 8. Until "open war" broke out, it says, city officials of Los Angeles "had been content to let the irate sailors clean up a condition which had perplexed them for several months."

In other words, the city officials had been winking at mob law dealt out by sailors.

I'm not criticizing the sailors. Mobs of sailors, mobs of zoot suiters, mobs of theatre-goers, mobs of vigilantes — they're all pretty much alike. But I am criticizing the city officials, who, if the UP account is accurate, permitted the illegal handling by sailors of what should have been their own job, namely, the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Lessons To Learn

THERE ARE things to be learned from this whole Los Angeles mess. First, we must learn that zoot suits are not necessarily signs of low moral character.

They are symptoms of youthful dissatisfaction. This dissatisfaction expresses itself sometimes in loud clothes such as zoot suits, sometimes in juvenile delinquency, and sometimes in both zoot suits and delinquency.

The fact that zoot suits and delinquency sometimes appear together, or even the fact (if it is a fact) that they often appear together, is no reason for believing that they always appear together.

Secondly — and this is something for the city officials of Los Angeles to learn — law and order are not maintained, but destroyed, by permitting or encouraging illegal or extra-legal methods of combatting crime. One of the best ways of upholding the law is to uphold the law.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Government Asked to Remedy Evils That Bred "Zoot Riots"

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The prompt action of Attorney General Robert Kenney of California injected by society and that the quelling and curbing the recent "zoot suit" attacks was commended this week by Walter White, executive secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a letter to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of Navy Frank Knox and Attorney General Francis Biddle of the Department of Justice.

Merely banning members of the armed services from areas in which rioting has occurred is not sufficient, White pointed out. He urged that corrective action be taken against the rioters whether wearing zoot suits or the uniform of the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard or Marines. "Otherwise these members of the armed services," he said, "will believe the wearing of the uniform gives them license to act as arbiters of how civilians may dress, speak, act or think. The inevitable result will be anarchy and complete collapse of democratic government."

Stating that it is superficial and childish to attribute acts of this character solely to modes of dress, White explained that many zoot suiters wear such clothing to compensate a sense of being rejected by society and that the wearers are almost invariably the victims of poverty, proscription, and segregation."

afro-american
Baltimore, Maryland

Colored Join Mexicans in Zoot Riots

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(ANP)—One hundred white sailors in cars and taxis swooped down on the North Broadway and North Main haunts of young Mexican zoot suit wearers June 5 to avenge assaults during the past two weeks.

Twenty Mexicans were sent to hospitals. But the next night, hundreds of the Mexican zoot suiters organized and beat up, slashed, and slugged a number of sailors.

'Depants' Victims

Through the agitation of young Mexicans, colored persons were drawn into the fight. They have been attacked and given the customary treatment of "depantsing" or tearing off the peg-topped, tight-cuffed leg adornment.

Partly naked, they, like the Mexicans, have been left to get to cover the best way they could. Also influenced by the Mexicans' procedure they have started roving in gangs, watching for sailors in the Central Avenue colored section.

The town now is almost in a reign of terror, with windows of street cars broken, shots fired into an interurban train and a white policeman trapped and perhaps fatally injured by Mexicans who ran him down in a car.

500 Jailed

New casualties and arrests arrests brought the five-day zoot suit warfare total to more than 150 injured and more than 500 pachucos and servicemen jailed. Two soldiers and a colored zoot suiter were taken into custody after a riot at the corner of Second and Spring Streets, June 8.

Twelve colored ambushed a 17-year-old white high school pupil the same night, asked him if he were a "zoot suiter" and when he said "no," the fight started.

The victim, Joe M. Steddum of Watts, received a five inch cut on his left forehead, requiring six stitches at the emergency hospital. Donald R. Mainhurst, white, seaman second class, was beaten and kicked by eight colored youths in zoot suits at Olympic Boulevard and Central Avenue. He was alone when attacked.

'ZOOT-SUIT' FRACAS HITS SAN DIEGO

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Charge Whites Attack All Men Not Dressed In Conservative Suits

(Special to The Defender)

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—In the wake of recent zoot-suit disorders that upset law and order in Los Angeles, trouble visited the Negro district of San Diego, Wednesday night, when white sailors and marines swarmed into the section, causing minor fights and disturbances.

Observers here declared that the general attitude of the white servicemen seems to be that whether clothes are collegiate English style drape, (whence originated the zoot suit), or modernistic to any degree —especially California sports clothes—the wearers should be attacked.

Hundreds of Negro sailors joined with others of their race in blocking further entrance into the district by white members of the armed forces.

Trouble Had Been Brewing

Conversation with colored sailors revealed that for some time trouble has been brewing, but that white Navy men expect Negro Navy men to stick with them regardless of whether they are right or wrong, but in this situation the Negro soldiers and sailors are behind the Spanish element and the Negroes 100 per cent, because the trouble has been aggravated by the whites.

Civilians help to agitate the movement, white women deriding, from passing cars, Negroes dressed in the modern style and accusing them in overtones of being "zoot-suiters." The Chinese Village, 632 Third avenue, which has a habit of refusing to serve Negroes, at times, was placed out-of-bounds by military authorities early Thursday morning following many violent scenes occurring in front of the establishment, in the heart of the Negro neighborhood but largely patronized by white sailors and marines.

The Creole Palace and the Douglas club, corner Second and Market streets, were literally beseiged with a combination of white sailors who were only dispersed when jeeps loaded with marine police, shore patrolmen and military police surrounded the four blocks leading to the Negro business place and finally barricading it from all outside trade.

The trouble spread from the downtown section to the residential sections of both Negroes and Mexicans which border together from Logan avenue to Imperial avenue in the Logan Heights district.

The congregating of most Negro members of the armed forces is said to be the result of the small colored USO for hundreds of men being located so many blocks from the heart of the city.

Typical Cases

Benjamin Washington, 24, who resides in the 500 block on Eighth avenue, was surrounded, after returning from a moving picture show uptown, by a mob "of more than 80 white sailors" and told that "they did not like the clothes he was wearing, and that if he "were a smart n——r he would keep them off."

Mr. Washington told them that although they had him ganged; if they dared to put a finger on him as at the San Diego club, residing at on 627 Market street, was stopped by six sailors and marines at the corner of Fifth avenue and Market street, while in the company of his home. Upon interviewing Mr. marines they are intending it would be the most unwise step Washington he told the reporter though they had ever performed. He pro- the Plaza at Third and Broadway marching to this district." ceeded unmolested seven blocks to must have 4,000 white sailors and

some youths wearing drapes and one marine who kept patting his stomach trying to convey the idea that he possessed a pistol, asked him what he was doing with drapes on and that he had better get them off. Upon the convergence of a number of colored sailors, the whites immediately disappeared.

The entire Negro district is now out-of-bounds for white sailors and marines

SOAPBOX -- by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.



POWELL

THE "ZOOT SUIT" riots of Los Angeles are the most serious setback that America has suffered during this war period. As you remember I wrote on my return from my national tour that Los Angeles and Detroit were the two centers where domestic fascism would break out. This has been sustained in a shorter period than I had anticipated. The "Zoot Suit" riot of Los Angeles, the Packard Motor Car "hate strike" in Detroit, the racial disturbance in the Mobile, Ala., shipyard are all part and parcel of the Ku Klux Klan's tie-up with the axis.

It has always been my considered opinion that one cannot isolate hatred. The "Zoot Suit" rioting on the part of members of the armed forces began with the Mexicans. It then spread until it became also anti-Negro. Finally, two white members of Gene Krupa's band were assaulted in Philadelphia last week, one of whom is in a very serious condition. People's Voice New York, N.Y.

All this is Hitlerism at its worst. In will seriously disturb our relations with not only Mexico but all of Latin-America. It can nullify every victory of Tunisia and Pantellaria. The passing of a law by the Los Angeles City Council to prohibit the wearing of "Zoot Suits" is not only unconstitutional but downright riciculous. A "peg" and a "drape" neither make the man nor unmake him. The one thing we have got to be certain of is that "Zoot Suiters" know no race. Take one look at the white boys wandering up and down Broadway and you will understand.

We deplore violence and gangsterism at all times but we have authorities to deal with such outbreaks in a just manner and courts to decide the guilt or innocence. It is not up to citizens or members of the armed forces to solve these problems nor can they be solved by police brutality or passing silly city ordinances.

Let us look at the condition of the Mexican people in Los Angeles. Mexicans can only work at certain kinds of jobs and at the lowest pay. They cannot learn trades. AFL labor unions bar them. There is a complete lack of recreation centers. In California there are public signs in private and public places prohibiting Mexicans to enter. Sometimes you come across a sign "Monday reserved for Mexicans and Negroes only." Theatres segregate them in certain sections. Restaurants will not serve them. It does not matter whether you are foreign born or native born.

Judging purely from the accounts that I have read in the papers and from individuals on the West Coast the following are my conclusions:

1—The papers of the West Coast distorted the situation and did a great deal in fanning the spark into a flame.

2—The army and navy did not move quick enough into the situation.

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3—The insane view is that of the City Council and the sane view is that of the Attorney General of the State of California.

4—The National Lawyers Guild needs support in their investigation.

It is not the "Zoot Suiters" but the Poll Taxers that need watching.

JUN 19 1943

Zoot Suit Disorders Sweep Across Nation

Chicago Defender Chicago, Illinois

Spreading like a forest fire from its pivotal point in Los Angeles, zoot suit disturbances broke out during the week in widely separated sections of the country, where street fights, police clubbing and civilian reprisals were the order of the day.

In Philadelphia, four colored youths, wearing zoot trousers, were severely beaten by a gang of 25 white boys in a street brawl marked by first fighting and pistol shots. The Negroes were treated at a local hospital, then arrested on charges of breach of the peace. What action police took to capture white youths was not immediately learned, but it was rumored that all made good their escape.

In Pittsburgh three zoot-suited youths attacked a street car motorman in the downtown district early Saturday morning, in the first disturbances recorded there by wearers of the stuff cuffs and the reet pleats. One of the youths was taken into custody.

In Baltimore, only 40-odd miles from the Nation's Capital, three Negro zoot suit addicts, described as members of the Northeast "brimstone gang" were given fines and jail terms Wednesday in police court on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to carrying concealed weapons. Police estimated that the gang numbers more than 100 youths. The police said the gang had attacked other Negro youths and specialized in smashing milk bottles.

A second flare-up occurred in Philadelphia Thursday when a pianist and saxophonist in Gene Krupa's band were beaten in a subway station by two unidentified sailors who reportedly mistook the musicians' band uniforms for zoot suits. The pianist, hospital attaches said, may have a skull fracture, as result of the beating.

In Los Angeles, Hiawatha Garrett, 22-year-old Negro youth was jailed Tuesday after he had surrendered to police in an effort to escape the wrath of a quintet of marines after he had admitted stabbing one of them.

Garrett told police he was walking in the vicinity of Second and Main street when a group of marines yelled at him. He said when he ignored them, one of their number ran up to him yanking him around and hitting him in the mouth. The blow loosened two teeth and split his lip.

During the melee when other marines joined their comrade in the assault on Garrett, the man said he drew his knife and stabbed one and fled. Garrett pleaded self defense, through his lawyer, Walter L. Gordon Jr., when arragined before Judge Byron Walters last Thursday. He was released on $1,500 bail pending his preliminary hearing set for June 17.

JUN 19 1943

Afro-American Baltimore, Maryland

Colored Join Mexicans in Zoot Riots

By HARRY LEVETTE

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61-1943

Time
Chicago, Illinois



Associated Press

THE MOB
Los Angeles gave its tacit approval.



THE QUARRY
CALIFORNIA

Zoot-Suit War

For two nights the mobs of soldiers and sailors had found poor hunting. In long caravans of cabs and private cars they had toured the Mexican sections, armed with sticks and weighted ropes, crashing into movie houses, looking for zoot-suited *pachucos*, the little Mexican-American youths. But they had found only a few dozen, and not all of them even wore zoot suits. They had broken the jaw of a 12-year-old boy. Said the boy, in the hospital:

"So our guys wear tight bottoms on their pants and those bums wear wide bottoms. Who the hell they fighting, Japs or us?"

One *Panzer* division of the cab-and-car attack had rolled down a Mexican district side street, past the rows of mean, ramshackle frame houses. But they had only found a few victims to beat. One of them was a 17-year-old Russian boy, Pete Nogikoss, talking on a street corner to two Mexicans. The Mexicans fled. Pete stood still. The sailors beat him to the ground.

Scores of Mexican youths had been stripped of their pants (some of them on the stages of movie houses), beaten and then arrested by the Los Angeles police for "vagrancy" and "rioting." (The police practice was to accompany the caravans in police cars, watch the beatings and then jail the victims. Their orders apparently were to let the Shore Patrol and the Military Police handle the rioting sailors. The service police were futile.)

But now the rioting seemed to be diminishing. The zoot-suiters lay low, the sailors and soldiers had seemingly wreaked sufficient revenge for the several occasions when zoot-hoodlums had attacked and robbed them.

Hearst Moves In. But then the press took up the story. The Hearst newspapers, the Los Angeles *Examiner* and the *Herald & Express,* and Harry Chandler's Los Angeles *Times* began to blaze. Late-afternoon editions printed a black-faced leads about a purported anonymous call to headquarters: "We're meeting 500 strong tonight and we're going to kill every cop we see." The Hearst *Herald & Express* bannered: ZOOTERS THREATEN L. A. POLICE.

The Mob Moves In. That night all Los Angeles stayed downtown to see the fun. When darkness came to the fog-chilled streets, the sidewalks and streets were jammed with expectant servicemen and civilians. Shore Patrol cars, Military Police and police and sheriffs' cars patrolled in force.

Scores of cars loaded with soldiers and sailors poured into the area. Soon after dark a mob formed, surged down Broadway, crashed into the Orpheum Theater, went down the aisles shouting for *pachucos* to stand up. In the balcony the mob found 17-year-old Enrico Herrera, sitting with his girl. He and others were dragged downstairs to the street; the citizenry pushed back to give them room while he was beaten and stripped naked. The crowd howled. When the sailors had finished, the police dutifully edged up, took Herrera to the hospital.

The mob went happily down Broadway, repeating in every theater, the Rialto, the Tower, Loew's. Others stopped streetcars, pulled off zooters, Mexicans or just dark-complexioned males. On went the mob, ripping pants, beating the young civilians, into the Arcade, the Roxy, the Cameo, the Broadway, the Central and the New Million Dollar theaters. The mood of officialdom (the Shore Patrol, the Military Police, the city police, the sheriff's office) seemed complaisant.

Hoodlumism. The mob split all over Los Angeles, to Watts, Belvedere, Boyle Heights, El Monte, Baldwin Park, Montebello, San Gabriel—anywhere that Mexicans lived.

Hearst's *Examiner* kept pounding: *"Police Must Clean Up L.A. Hoodlumism."* The first paragraph of an editorial said: "Riotous disturbances of the past week in Los Angeles by zoot-suit hoodlums have inflicted a deep and humiliating wound on the reputation of this city."

California's zoot-suit war was a shameful example of what happens to wartime emotions without wartime discipline.

Some of Los Angeles' young Mexicans, organized into zoot-suit "gangs" that were the equivalent of boys' gangs almost anywhere, had run out of hand: they had robbed and used their knives on some lone sailors on dark side streets. But probably the trouble could have been ended right there. One who thought so was Eduardo Quevedo, a plump, cigar-chewing, shock-headed amateur sociologist, president of the Coordinating Council for Latin Americans, member of the Citizens' Committee on Latin American youth.

Eight months ago, Goodman Quevedo went to work to stop youthful hoodlumism, started a kind of grown-up Boys Club for the zooters. He knew that they represented a basic American problem: the second generation. Their fathers and mothers were still Mexicans at heart. They themselves were Americans—resented and looked down on by other Americans. Jobless, misunderstood in their own homes and unwelcome outside them, they had fallen into the companionship of misery. They dressed alike, in the most exaggerated and outlandish costume they could afford: knee-length coats, peg-top trousers, yard-long watch chains, "ducktail" haircuts.

If the *pachucos* had asked for trouble, they got more than was coming to them last week. The military authorities were notably lax (all shore and camp leave could easily have been curbed), the Los Angeles police apparently looked the other way. The press, with the exception of the *Daily News* and Hollywood *Citizen-News,* helped whip up the mob spirit. And Los Angeles, apparently unaware that it was spawning the ugliest brand of mob action since the coolie race riots of the 1870s, gave its tacit approval.

THE ZOOT SUIT RIOTS.

It is unfortunate that the picturesque detail of the zoot suit was allowed for several days to obscure the real and serious nature of the disorders in Los Angeles. Californians who sought to remove the memory of a devastating earthquake by calling it a fire, who once concealed an outbreak of bubonic plague, and who chronically call a torrential downpour a mist, have been up to their old tricks. Until they no longer could get away with it they tried to persuade the world that the current disorders were a glorified roughhouse between soldiers and sailors on one side and townies on the other. In fact Los Angeles has experienced a series of nasty little race riots between Americans in uniform and embittered Mexican bravos and toughs.

It is unlikely that this latest excursion into euphemism has fooled very many people in Los Angeles or any place else, including Latin America. It would be interesting to know what the censor allowed the newspapers of Central and South America to learn about the incidents, but whether the truth were told or not it is altogether certain that our good neighbors will soon learn it and the knowledge will do our foreign relations no good.

Certainly our army and navy commands are not entirely free of blame. There have been a number of intimations in recent months of a growing tension in southern California and military intelligence departments should have been alive to the danger. Either the intelligence officers were asleep at the switch or their warnings were not heeded.

The primary responsibility rests, however, upon the Los Angeles community and its public officials. They allowed the Mexican gangs to flourish and took only inadequate measures, if

Los Angeles suburb flows an endless stream of propaganda pictures intended to persuade the American people that they must save the world from whatever ails it, including race hatreds, but here, under Hollywood's nose, an ugly race conflict, damaging to this country's foreign relations, was allowed to develop for lack of human decency and civic responsibility. We

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JUN 10 1943
Chicago, Illinois
Tribune

hope but we do not believe that the movie community will learn from this incident that before reforming the world it had better reform itself.

'Zoot-Suit War' Rages Unchecked in Los Angeles

PM
New York, N. Y.

Navy Unable to Keep Sailors Out of 'Battleground'; Police Admit Alarm

Special Correspondence

LOS ANGELES, June 9.—The zoot-suit war is still unchecked. Violance in the tough Skidrow section of the Los Angeles East Side was resumed last night despite an Army-Navy edict declaring the district out of bounds for service men.

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One group of four sailors who strolled into the banned area were promptly attacked by a band of Mexican youths who jumped from an automobile. Seaman Donald Jackson, 20, received a five-inch knife wound and his companions were beaten badly.

Officials Alarmed

City officials who had been content to let the irate sailors clean up a condition which baffled them, were frankly alarmed by the disturbances which at times have reached the proportions of a race riot.

Thousands of sailors poured into the area intent on stripping any youth they found wearing a long coat, wide-brimmed hat and ankle-hugging pants, regardless of whether he was a member of one of the zoot-suit gangs blamed for starting the undeclared war.

A committee of CIO and AFL officials, Government officials, sheriff's and police officers, clergymen and County officials met to discuss "the dangerous situation and take possible action to prevent further outbreaks."

At this meeting, police were accused of acting as "mere spectators" during the riots. Charges were made that the riots were inspired by sailors from the old South who look upon Negroes and Mexicans as "inferior."

60 Jailed

In Monday night's rioting, sailors invaded theaters, cafes, bars, nightclubs and street cars, setting on any youth they spied who had the costume, popular among Mexicans and Negroes.

The rioting was at its peak when military police and shore patrols appeared, removing service men by the truckload, while police sought to round up so-called hoodlums.

As a result, 60 Mexican and Negro youths were in jail, most of them picked up naked in the street, where they had been left by sailors after being stripped of their clothes. Six others were in hospitals. *(Pictures on Page 12.)*

JUN 9 1943

Army and Navy officials, loath to interfere in civilian affairs, felt they had done their duty in declaring the area out of bounds, including the Main St. section where service men had found diversion in shooting galleries, burlesque theaters, cheap cafes and cheap hotels.

Authorities in Mexico, as well as the Mexican Consulate here, were reported disturbed by the treatment of their nationals, and Fascist agents were reported using the incidents to agitate against the U. S. A.

Among the better-known gangs are the 38th Street gang, the Mated Boobers, the Main Street Zooters, and the Black Legion. The latter group affects black sombreros, pegged trousers with exaggerated pleats and frock-length coats, and has a girls' auxiliary known as the Black Widows.

Bee (Magazine Section)
Chicago, Ill.

JUN 20 1943

Zoot-Suit Mania.

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST is doubtless now cataloguing for posterity the behavior patterns of the 1943 bug species. There are many things social scholars will want to know about the people of our era, a hundred years hence. Not the least will be the origin, growth, actions, attire and (we hope) mode of extinction of the species—zoot suit jitterbug.

Pending the final assessment of the jitterbug by the social students, it is hoped, in the meanwhile, that our civic organizations will engage in a strenuous crusade to substitute wider recreational programs to supplant street corner "socializing" which is the initial stage for gang formations. There should also be a unified insistence on greater police protection.

These young gangsters are a national menace. Yet in Los Angeles, we have no brief for the "discipline" the young soldiers and sailors tried to invoke on the Mexican colony, as well as some local Negro jitterbugs. These young armed service men were out of bounds. Their energies should be confined to the Axis instead of a continuance of racism, which has long been manifested in California against Mexicans and Orientals. In this instance both the military and civilian authorities are guilty of gross dereliction.

Needless to say that in times of great national and world tension and war, there is a widespread manifestation of moral and social laxness in dress and behavior. These conditions make the job of the more poised, better balanced citizenry all the harder. But they must accept the challenge to keep life meaningful and our taste standards high, or we will be engulfed by the forces of decadence.

One of the great mistakes our nation has made in its struggle for cultural ascendancy has been the lack of cultivating the highest taste patterns in our youth. The exception to this only proves the rule.

It is alleged that Clark Gable in the cinema "Gone With The Wind," started the zoot suit craze with his long Prince Albert coat and pegged trousers. Others have attributed the craze to several of our swing band leaders. Whatever the origin, the exaggerated shoulders, etc., give a false sense of physical development and create a deluded concept of "superman."

Little wonder that gangs are adopting this mode of attire as a sort of uniform. The members at least feel like "superman junior." An old Latin aphorism is not amiss—"To be, rather than to seem." If we can through every possible means convey this idea, along with improving our taste norms in our homes, schools, churches and socials, we will desist from impoverishing the valuable moments of life allotted to us, from which we can transform life from empty, mutilating pompousness into a highly refined creativeness.

JUN 26 1943

OTHER PAPERS SAY . . .

Chicago Sun
Chicago, Ill.

RIOTS IN LOS ANGELES

The riots in Los Angeles' notorious Skidrow district must be charged up to the laxity and inefficiency of its public officials and police.

They failed to quell gangs of zoot-suited hoodlums who had attacked, robbed and stabbed soldiers and sailors. It appears that the police actually encouraged bands of servicemen bent on revenge to invade the section. Once the rioting started, the police took a hand, but certain of them explained quite jovially that "some of the servicemen were just raising a little hell."

The "little hell" of Skidrow has expanded to alarming proportions. Other sailors have been slashed, a policeman has had his back broken, rioting has spread to more communities and Navy authorities have declared Los Angeles out of bounds for sailors.

Worst of all, racial animosities have been heightened. Because many of the grotesquely clad toughs were Mexicans or Negroes, innocent members of these two groups, with or without zoot suits, have been assaulted, stripped and beaten by invading servicemen. Fascists accordingly are chuckling in glee.

These happenings are hardly the customary hi-jinks of servicemen on leave. They are race riots, ugly manifestations of anti-Mexican and anti-Negro feeling. Their basic causes are not stuffed cuffs and reat pleats but discrimination of many years' standing against these minority groups. Resentful, some of those unable to secure decent jobs or wholesome living conditions have become belligerent or criminal.

The public officials who allowed these tendencies to flare into terror, and the Army and Navy authorities, confronted with an emergency, must clean up this ugly state of affairs, and clean it up fast. We cannot afford such outbursts of hatred while we wage war against the very thing that thrives on them—Fascism.

—From the Chicago Sun.

JUN 26 1943

Zoot Suit

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

The West Coast naval authorities have, it seems to us, shown great wisdom in their decision to make the whole city of Los Angeles forbidden territory to sailors on shore leave. This has followed the recent disorders between servicemen and gangs of fantastically clad young muggers. If the stories of assault, robbery and mayhem are correct, it would seem that the soldiers and sailors had plenty of provocation. It would also seem that they began to take reprisals only after the mugging had got beyond the control of the local police.

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All the same vigilantism is a dangerous form of correction, especially when the vigilantes wear uniforms and act on their own responsibility. The muggers, too, wear a kind of uniform called a zoot suit, which enables the outraged sailors to distinguish them from presumably peaceable civilians. And yet it is conceivable, though incongruous, that the wearer of a zoot suit might be otherwise inoffensive and law-abiding. Nevertheless, the Los Angeles City Council has now decreed the wearing of a zoot suit to be a misdemeanor punishable by a 30-day jail sentence. The constitutionality of such an ordinance is doubtful, since it sounds like depriving citizens of the use of property without due process of law. Moreover, it is difficult to see how the ordinance will help matters much, since the Army and Navy cannot be expected to complicate the job of their own military police and shore patrols by removing the uniforms from enlisted men on leave.

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A Mexican and Negro elements of Los Angeles gers offers a most favorable milieu for that in- s, a crease in juvenile delinquency which has sant been noted in nearly all sections of the cial country.

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61-1943

California

Hearst Press Incited Campaign Against Mexicans, Promoted Police Raids, Whipped Up Race Clashes

PM
New York, N. Y.

These Are Race Riots, Not Gangster Rows . . . Only Half of Victims Wore Zoot Clothes

(Carey McWilliams is a well-known West Coast attorney, sociologist and author. He formerly headed California's Division of Immigration and Housing, fought many battles for migratory labor. He is the author of Factories in the Field *and* Brothers Under the Skin. *The latter book, recently published, unfolds the story and significance of discrimination against minorities in America.*

By CAREY McWILLIAMS

PM Exclusive

JUN 1 1943

LOS ANGELES, June 11.—The riots that have raged in Los Angeles for the past week are the worst race riots that California has known since the notorious anti-coolie riots of the 70s. No one should be confused by the utterly misleading attempt of the Los Angeles press to describe these riots as demonstrations against "zoot suit gangsters."

Since August, 1942, as a result of representations made by the Office of War Information (OWI), the Los Angeles newspapers have dropped all references to Mexicans. But "zoot suiter" has, for all practical purposes, become synonymous with "Mexican" and is so understood in the community. At least half of the 50 or more people seriously injured during the riots were not wearing zoot suits, and about the same ratio holds for the 400 or more Mexicans arrested over the week-end.

Mexicans Mauled

The mob of 1000 service men and civilians, who, with the police giving their tacit approval, raided virtually every down town motion picture theater on June 7 and hauled Mexicans into the streets where they were beaten, and, in several cases, stripped naked and left lying unconscious on the pavements, was looking for Mexicans; but they did settle, in a few cases, for a Negro. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that these were race riots.

These riots were merely the culmination of a long series of previous incidents. Los Angeles has the largest Mexican population of any city in the U. S. A. Some 219,000 Mexicans reside in the county of Los Angeles, of whom approximately 36,000 are between the ages of 6 and 17. A considerable portion are old-time residents—descendants of families who have lived in Los Angeles for years. These old-time residents are only incidentally involved in the present situation.

During the first World War, the Mexican community in Los Angeles grew very rapidly, primarily as a reason of wholesale labor importation. From 1914 to 1929 thousands of Mexicans came across the border. They were recruited in Mexico for employment as section-hands, agricultural workers, and as employes in desert mines. Over a period of years, and particularly during the depression, more and more of these recent immigrant families came to settle in Los Angeles. On an average, at least one of the parents is likely to be an alien.

Language difficulties, the proximity of Mexico, social ostracism, the costs involved, and other factors, have tended to discourage any interest, on their part, in naturalization. Most of these immigrant families, however, have children who are American citizens by reason of birth. These children are just now reaching maturity. There is a marked social cleavage, in most cases, between parent and child. Parental authority has tended to break down.

Segregation Spreads

These Los Angeles-born Mexicans know nothing of Mexico. They have grown up on the streets of the East Side of Los Angeles, attending American schools and occasionally seeing an American movie. Segregation in the schools has resulted as a consequence of residential segregation.

These youngsters have been made keenly aware of social discrimination — in motion picture theaters, playgrounds, in community swimming pools, and in many other walks of life. At the same time, the excitements of American life have enormously stimulated their desires for full participation in the social life of the dominant groups.



This Los Angeles crowd was photographed as it cheered on a group of service men stripping a zoot-suiter.

Mexicans have gradually encroached upon the community itself. When I first came to Los Angeles in 1922, one seldom saw a Mexican in the downtown section of the city. In fact, you were not at all aware of the large Mexican population. But, with the second generation reaching maturity, Mexicans have begun to infiltrate into the community proper.

This outward movement from the Mexican quarter has served to make many old-time residents extremely Mexican-conscious. Few agencies have assisted in this process of adjustment during a transitional period. The church has not actively concerned itself with the local resident Mexican population and, as a consequence, it is not a vital influence in the life of the second generation.

Also involved in the total problem are, of course, such factors as widespread and deep-seated poverty, occupational stratification, family disorganization, and cultural maladjustment. Mexican youngsters, coming from Spanish-speaking homes, are at a distinct disadvantage in entering schools where the sole language of instruction is English. They are likely to be "retarded" and they carry this handicap with them through the various grades.

These factors have been known to exist for years. The Mexican problem, so-called, was the primary concern of social welfare agencies in Los Angeles before, during and after the depression. But the community itself, particularly the dominant social groups, continued to ignore the problem. They managed to ignore the problem for two reasons—lack of leadership in the Mexican group and political apathy among Mexicans.

War Tension

There is only a small middle-class element involved in the Mexican population. They have not developed, therefore, elements of aggressive leadership, such as exist in the Negro section of Los Angeles (with a Negro population nowadays of around 75,000). When a particular Mexican or person of Mexican descent does make headway in the community, he has usually tended to shuffle off his Mexican affiliations and background.

The Mexican community began to run a fever almost with the outbreak of the war. As elsewhere, the war has brought latent tensions to the surface and has, in many cases, tended to increase these tensions. In October, 1941, I sent Mr. Nelson Rockefeller a long memorandum calling attention to the conditions which existed among the Mexicans in California and urging, in the strongest possible terms, the adoption of an immediate action program.

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Negroes in Harlem.

'Race Problems' Stressed

Major responsibility for the developing sequence of events during the past week must rest, however, upon the press of Los Angeles, particularly the Hearst newspapers. In the Summer of 1942, the press whipped up a great smear campaign against Mexicans, with particular emphasis being placed on an alleged crime wave" and the zoot-suit "gangs." There has always been crime in Los Angeles—plain, fancy and with every other group. It was weird crescendo in August, 1942, at the time of the so-called Sleepy Lagoon case—the similar police began to respond to the needling of against Hearst's men on the courthouse beat. Whole

tions were made on the Mexican sec-
tions; mass arrests became the order of
the day.

"Prowl cars" cruised through the Mexican
quarters, generally intimidating the com-
munity.

Many persons pointed out at the time
that continuance of these methods could
only result in more tension and more trouble.
At an open grand jury hearing in September,
1942, I said as much and was supported by
the testimony of Dr. Harry Hojer of the
University of California at Los Angeles, and
by other witnesses. But the recommendations
made at this hearing were not put into effect;
the problem had "blown over." After the
lapse of a week or so, the police resumed
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Public officials once more began to sound
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MORE

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'Zoot Suit War' Still Unchecked

New York N. Y.

Special Correspondence

LOS ANGELES, June 9.—The zoot-suit
war is still unchecked. Violence in the
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East Side was JUN 9 1943 night despite
an Army-Navy edict declaring the district
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One group of four sailors who strolled
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Jackson, 20, received a five-inch knife
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City officials who had been content to
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which baffled them, were frankly alarmed
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At this meeting, police were accused of
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Charges were made that the riots were in-
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ferior."

In Monday night's rioting, sailors invaded
theaters, cafes, bars, nightclubs and street
cars, setting on any youth they spied who
had the costume, popular among Mexicans
and Negroes.

The rioting was at its peak when military
police and shore patrols appeared, removing
service men by the truckload, while police
sought to round up so-called hoodlums.

As a result, 60 Mexican and Negro
youths were in jail, most of them picked
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The effect on Hollywood and
who ran him down in a car.
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JUN 18 1943

Zoot Suit Riots Becomes Involved As Negroes Join Kansas City, Kan., Zoot Suit Rioting Grips Coast

to put a stop to the violence and
all officers, colored and white,
are on 24 hour call.

Trouble started with Saturday
night, June 5, when 100 white sail-
ors in cars and taxis swooped down
on the North Broadway and North
Main haunts of young Mexican
zoot suit wearers to avenge as-
saults on sailors by gangs during
the past two weeks. They met
little resistance then, and 20 of
the zoot suiters were treated for
cuts and bruises.

But the next night, hun-
dreds of sailors were sent to hos-
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By HARRY LEVETTE

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Long has at last gripped
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With increasing intensity every
night it is powerless
the theatre district.

EXHIBITIONISM

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

JUN 26 1943

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

"Bigger Than Thomas" Mentality
Grips Zoot-Suiters; Sign
Of Mental Frustration



Mr. Cayton

I DIDN'T think I would be writing about zoot suits, but here it is. The zoot suit riots in Los Angeles than meets the eye at first glance. And dangerous presages the difficulties which will come after the war. Make no mistake about it; what happened in Los Angeles was a race riot. Reliable half of the Mexicans that were not wearing zoot suits. Let me add my little bit to what has already been said about zoot suiters. It is the consensus of opinion that they are worn by frustrated youth, often members of minority groups, who can find no other means of self-expression. Negroes wear them, probably invented them. Mexicans on the West Coast wear them. Recently, there was an item in the papers that they were being worn in Paris as a means of defying the Nazi conquerors. The zoot suit seems to set the individual off as at variance with the group in a society.

SYMBOL OF FRUSTRATION

This division apparently cuts across racial lines. There are zoot suited Negroes, zoot suited Mexicans, and zoot suited second generation foreign-born whites. of whom are criticized by more stable leaders of group. There is the zoot suiters: Negro and white Harlem, and in Los Angeles Negro and Mexican zoot suiters are closer together than they are to the members of their own racial group. Zoot suits have become a symbolizes a identification which the trated, thwarted, mentality — frus-Confused, as" mentality. "Bigger Thom-even on occasions, criminal; still

I DON'T know what one can ac-complish by preaching to zoot suiters, that is, providing that result can get one to stand still. I don't against them know how conventional leaders of their ranks, and either the Mexican, Negro, or feeling that society foreign-born white groups can tend to give them a chance. talk to these zoot suiters. Not only do they speak a different language—a sort of Pidgin English—but their mentalities are so different and their drives for recognition and security are so forlegged that they can communicate.

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The rioting was at its peak when military police and shore patrols appeared, removing service men by truckload, while police sought to round up so-called hoodlums.

As a result, 60 Mexican and Negro youths were in jail, most of them picked up naked in the street, where they had been left by sailors after being stripped of their clothes. Six others were in hospitals.

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Many persons pointed out at the time that continuance of these methods could only result in more tension and more trouble. At an open grand jury hearing in September, 1942, I said as much and was supported by the testimony of Dr. Harry Hojer of the University of California at Los Angeles, and by other witnesses. But the recommendations made at this hearing were not put into effect; the problem had "blown over." After the lapse of a week or so, the police resumed their campaign of intimidation and terrorism.

JUN 9 1943

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JUN 26 1943

I DIDN'T think I would be writing about zoot suits, but here it is. The zoot suit situation in Los Angeles than meets the eye at first glance. It is dangerous and presages the difficulties which will come after the war. I'll tell you about it; what happened in Los Angeles was a race riot. Reliable witnesses state that half of the Mexicans that were beat up were not wearing zoot suits.

Let me add my little bit to what has already been said about zoot suiters. It is the consensus of opinion that they are worn by frustrated youth, often members of minority groups, who can find no other means of self-expression. Negroes wear them, probably invented them. Mexicans on the West Coast wear them. Recently, there was an item in the papers that they were being worn in Paris as a means of defying the Nazi conquerors. The zoot suit seems to set the individual off as a person. I know many people will secretly at variance with the dominant group in a society.



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CRITICISMS WON'T SOLVE PROBLEM

Though approving of Mr. Bibb's column below in his admirable compliment, I am afraid that criticisms will not solve the problem. Such as these will be made by many sections of the press, such as our old friends, the Hearst papers, which will turn their attention to the zoot suiters, and will point out that they are not typical of the Negro people, that they are a small minority, that they are not representative, etc., etc. Such criticisms will be made by white sailors, who specialize in the "zoot suits." The police, with their usual attitude of "Let's get the Negro," will be quoted as saying that the zoot suiters started it all. Actually the police, with few exceptions, have been the worst offenders in the present situation. Their attitude has been one of condoning the attacks on Negroes and Mexicans, and in many cases they have actively participated in the attacks. Their attitude has been one of "Let's get the Negro," and they have been quoted as saying that the zoot suiters started it all. Actually the police, with few exceptions, have been the worst offenders in the present situation. Their attitude has been one of condoning the attacks on Negroes and Mexicans, and in many cases they have actively participated in the attacks.

JUN 26 1943

Negroes Become Involved As Zoot Suit Rioting Grips Coast

By HARRY LEVETTE

Los Angeles, June 11. (ANP)—Long dreaded mob spirit and Trouble started with Saturday has at last gripped night, June 5, when 100 white sailand is growing inors in cars and taxis swooped down are fear-on the North Broadway and North directed to-Main haunts of young Mexican between white sailors, and 20 of organized and beat up, slashed, young Mexicans and slugged a number of sailors. With increasing intensity every night, serious rioting has taken place, even down on Broadway in the theatre district.

Negroes were not included at first, but through the agitation of young Mexicans among their colored friends, they have been drawn into it until colored zoot suiters, both in groups and singly, have been attacked and given the customary treatment of "depantsing" or tearing off the peg-topped, tight-cuffed leg adornment. Partly naked, they, like the Mexicans, have been left to get to cover the best way they could. Also influenced by the Mexicans' procedure they have started roving in gangs, watching for sailors in the Central avenue Negro section. The town now is almost in the reign of terror, with windows of street cars being broken and shots fired into an interurban train and a white policeman trapped and perhaps fatally injured by Mexicans who ran him down in a car.

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The effect on Hollywood and Los Angeles proper, concerns the movie folk who have to travel to and from the studios, the loss suffered by business as sailors now restrained by naval orders, cannot spend the thousands of dollars they have been doing in patronage of Los Angeles and Hollywood stores, eating places and night spots.

It is the habit of these groups of unrestrained youths to operate only when the coast is clear and there is no danger, the navy lads say. "They are very bold when they spy a lone sailor on a dark street," one declared.

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California

Inside Story Of Coast Zoot Suit Riots Told By Defender Reporter

Chicago, Illinois

WILD MOB LOOKS FOR ZOOT SUITERS

By JOHN ROBERT BADGER
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

LOS ANGELES—Local officials today wore sheepish expressions as public indignation over the racial clashes that convulsed this vital war-industry center all last week brought federal and state investigators to the scene and galvanized progressive circles into action.

Amidst the blustering alibis of city officials could be heard the plaintive squeal of a bad conscience. As the investigations got under way, early findings pointed an accusing finger directly at the city administration for succumbing to the racial incitement of fifth column and native fascist influences.

The infection of racial hysteria began with the Mexican-Americans, spread quickly to the Negro communities. In several days of mob action it developed into the worst racial outbreaks in the entire history of this city.

The clashes involved thousands of civilians and servicemen, resulted in injuries to hundreds of Negro and Mexican-American youth and the arrest of hundreds more. All accounts—even those blatantly biased against the youth—indicated the assailants of the boys were helped by the police and encouraged by the local metropolitan press.

Jim Crow Policies

In the opinion of most observers, however, the participation of servicemen in the outbreaks, indeed, as spearheads of the hooliganism, may be traced to the Jim Crow policies of the United States army and navy, policies which have kept alive and even fanned the embers of racial hatred. The outbreaks, which sharply endanger United States relations with all Latin America and threaten to disrupt unity here at a vital hour in the United Nations' plan to knock out the Axis, have been characterized by many Negroes as "old man Jim Crow's chickens coming home to roost."

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Early consequences of the outbreaks included the following developments:



Armed with heavy clubs, pipes and bottles, this mob of servicemen at Watts, Calif., near Los Angeles is on the prowl for zoot suit wearers without interference from police officials. Later the Navy shore patrol broke up the group.

1. Intervention by the federal government in the form of a probe ordered by Nelson Rockefeller of the Coordinating Committee for Inter-American Affairs.

2. Investigation by California Attorney General Robert Kenny and a five-man committee named by Governor Earl Warren.

3. Representations to the U. S. State Department by the Mexican Embassy, after reports to Washington from the Mexican consulate here.

4. Condemnation of the mob violence by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

5. A warning from Senator Sheridan Downey (D., Cal.' that the outbreaks might have "extremely grave" consequences in impairing relations between the United States and Mexico.

6. Independent action, appealing for President Roosevelt's personal intervention and for maintenance of order by local authorities, from local civic leaders and organizations, including the Citizens Committee for Pan-American Youth, the Latin-American Coordinating Council, and a public mass meeting attended by leading Negro, Mexican and progressive representatives.

Labor Sees Threat

Thoroughly aroused by the developments also were progressive labor union forces. George Bradley, AFL representative on the Citizens' Committee for Pan-American Youth, stressed the fact that this kind of incident seriously threatens United States relations on a hemisphere scale. Harry Bridges, West Coast CIO director, charged that attacks on the youth were a "fascist-inspired drive to stop labor organization." Acting on Bridges' initiative, the fifth biennial convention of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union passed a resolution demanding that federal authorities clear up the situation immediately and "see that the perpetrators of the attacks are punished."

The Negro community here is also thoroughly aroused over the situation. Leading Negroes attended the mass meeting called by Carey MacWilliams, prominent liberal and author of the recently published work on minorities, "Brothers Under the Skin." They included Mrs. Fay Allen, member of the Board of Education; Clarence Johnson, minorities division of the War Manpower Commission; Floyd Covington, executive secretary of the local Urban League.

On the five-man committee appointed by Governor Warren to probe the situation is Walter Gordon, Berkeley attorney and football coach for the University of California at Berkeley.

Police Aid Attacks

Eye-witness accounts of the disorders agree that the servicemen attacking the youths were accorded full police assistance in most cases, though several individual police attempted to assert their authority and arrested a number of sailors and soldiers. The attacks also appeared to be sanctioned by the high ranking navy authorities here, for the navy information office claimed the servicemen were acting "in self defense against the rowdy element."

Most flagrant, however, was the incendiary tone of the local press, especially the Hearst newspapers.

One eye-witness, Al Waxman, former editor-publisher of the East-side News, describes one outbreak as follows:

"At 12th and Central avenue (this is on the fringe of the Negro community) I came upon a scene that will long live in memory. Police were swinging clubs and service men were fighting with civilians. Wholesale arrests were being made by the officers.

Clubbed With Nightstick

"Four boys came out of a pool-room. They were wearing the zoot suits that have become the symbol of a fighting flag. Police ordered them into arrest cars. One refused. He asked: 'Why am I being arrested?'

"The officer answered with three swift blows of the nightstick across the boy's head and he went down. As he crawled he was kicked in the face. Police had difficulty loading his body into the vehicle because he is one-legged and wears a wooden limb.

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"At the same corner, a Mexican mother cried out: 'Don't take my boy. He did nothing. He's only 15 years old. Don't take him.'

"She was struck across the jaw with a nightstick and nearly dropped the 2½-year-old baby that was clinging in her arms.

"Elsewhere, I am told, and pictures prove, two boys were forced to disrobe and their clothing burned in front of their eyes.

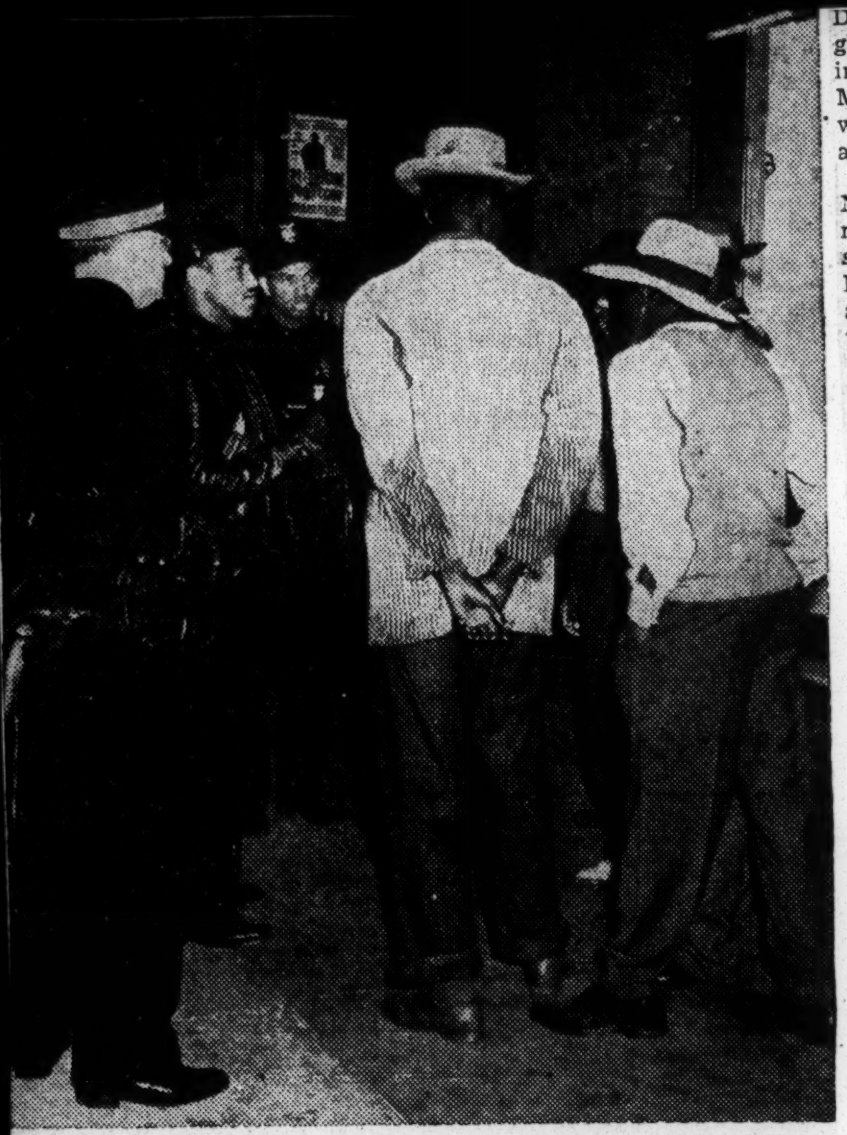
Rioters Unmolested

"Rushing back to the East Side to make sure that things were quiet there, I came upon a band of servicemen making a systematic manly down First street I saw a mob enter a theatre, force the manager to turn on the house lights. Calmly they went down the aisles inspect the clothing and forced male members of the audience to rise and display the type of trousers they were wearing. Earlier in the evening they stopped a street-car, forced the motorman to open the doors and proceeded to inspect the clothing of male passengers. molested.

"At First and Soto streets the same procedure was repeated. An elderly Jewish couple rushed from pulled several men out of the car. 'Is this a pogrom?' they asked. where four men were still nursing bruises. Three autos loaded with Los Angeles policemen were on the scene, but the soldiers were not

May Lose Eye

"Following the wave of mad hu-



A group of Los Angeles Negroes are rounded up by police officials and forced to produce their draft credentials as law authorities aid mobs of servicemen in intimidating the Mexican and Negro communities in Los Angeles.

"The rioting began last Friday and has been going on for several days without interruption. Each day the Hearst papers in this city publish banner headlines pitting the servicemen against the boys."

This was what Waxman saw. There were other eye-witnesses.

Many Negroes were victimized by the mobs. One young Negro boy may lose an eye as a result of a blow with a garrison belt. Other Negroes were stripped of clothing, beaten, clubbed.

An eye-witness to some of the incidents last Saturday night described how police cars guarded the scores of taxicabs, automobiles and trucks which were used by the sailors and soldiers to carry them into the Mexican-American and Negro neighborhoods. In most cases the police stood by and watched the maulings, while the police department officially released stories to the press calculated to increase the tension and foment more conflict. Such a story was the report that the youth had formed "reprisal gangs" and were bent on waging open warfare against the servicemen.

Encouraged by Navy

One officer at the scene of a particularly vicious attack was quoted by the local press as saying: "I'm glad the sailors are doing what we can't do."

The mob hysteria was definitely encouraged by the navy officials and the city's mayor. It was Rear Admiral D. W. Bagley, commanding officer of the 11th naval district, who closed the city to naval personnel after pressure by the citizens and condoned the attacks with the remark that the servicemen "were acting in self-defense."

Mayor Bowron poured more oil on the fire by promising to "stamp out for good" the "hoodlum element" in the city.

This attitude of the local officials reflects a condition which has long existed, and which was described by Senator Downey, the County Board of Supervisors, and other public spokesmen.

Laid to Slum Conditions

"Most of the Los Angeles 'zoot suiters' are Mexicans," declared Downey. "The trouble is an outgrowth of wartime conditions superimposed on slum conditions. Those Mexicans have been living in slums, without adequate education, recreational facilities or supervision."

The mass meeting attended by Negro and Mexican leaders and many responsible public citizens sent a wire to Attorney General Biddle demanding an investigation, and declaring that the violence is the "logical culmination of provocative and discriminatory policies pursued by local police officials toward the Mexican section of the community during the last 18 months."

The telegram to President Roosevelt by the Latin-American Coordinating Council declared that "in spite of assurance of army, navy, and local law enforcement officials, rioting bands of servicemen, armed with bludgeons are roaming the streets tonight with apparent tacit consent of law enforcement officers, and have extended activities to include Negroes."

Organized Attack

This extension of the mob violence to include Negroes is believed here to have resulted as a consequence of the racial incitement of the Hearst press and so-called "Sunday seditionists," that is, evangelists and preachers such as Bob Shuler, Joe Jeffers, Martin Luther Thomas, who regularly preach racial hatred and treason every Sunday.

Moreover, it is pointed out by local progressive leaders that the attacks appeared to be well organized and coordinated, though spread throughout the entire Los Angeles area. The attacks encompassed 20 different districts of the city and broke out simultaneously.

The soldiers and sailors had jeeps taxicabs, cars—in fact, every means of transportation already at hand. The newspaper campaign, and the official announcements of the police department coincided with the outbreaks. There is strong suspicion, though to date no proof has been found, that the entire outrage was planned and coordinated by sources obviously in sympathy with the Hitler Axis, and bent on destroying the unity upon which our war effort is based.

In the Mexican community, the atmosphere is tense and heavy-laden with fear and resentment. The Negroes, long used to this form of lynch-incitement, are less timorous, but no whit less angry. They are, moreover, not disposed to submit to terroristic raids into the Central avenue district without resistance.

Police Terrorism

Those Mexican-American leaders this correspondent has talked with admit that there is a small minority of Mexican-American youth out of the tens of thousands in this community who constitute a social problem. They are tough and prone to disorder. But as against this handful are thousands who are now in the armed services or hard at work in war industries, helping to make the instruments for the victory of the United States.

The sympathy of this city's nearly 100,000 Negroes with the Mexican-American community is strong and springs from the kind of common experiences of which the outbreaks are a recent aspect.

JUN 19 1943

Governor Appoints Committee To Study 'Zoot Suit' Disorders

Pittsburgh Courier

By HERMAN HILL

LOS ANGELES, June 17—Coming as a direct aftermath of the week-long series of riotous disturbances involving "zoot suiters," wearers of the stuffed cuff and street pleat, and servicemen here, a five-man citizens' committee, appointed by Governor Earl Warren to prevent recurrences, demanded that the city's streets "be made safe for servicemen as well as for civil-gangsters regardless of national origin, and those guilty of 'zoot suit' disorders be punished regardless of what clothes they wear—zoot suits, police, Army or Navy uniforms."

The committee, formed to aid and abetted by throngs of civilian State's Attorney Robert W. Kenny, is composed of motion picture actor Carl Holton of the Wal- California Youth Authority, ter Gordon, attorney and assistant football coach at the University of California at L.A., Dr. Willsie Martin of Wilshire Methodist church, and the Rt. Rev. Joseph T. McGucken, Catholic auxiliary bishop, is chairman of the committee.

OFFICIALS HOLD HEARINGS

Seeking to formulate a broad and constructive program for the future, the Governor's committee met early this week, and District Attorney Fred Howser also held hearings in an effort to unearth causes and effects of the wave of riots said by many to be the worst in the history of the city.

Battles between service men and the zoot suiters began last week-end when a sailor was allegedly mutilated and beaten by a Mexican

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California

City Urged to Seek OCD Aid in Preventing Race Riots

PM
New York, N. Y.

Experience of Los Angeles Shows Need of Independent Citizens' Committee to Protect Minorities

Harry Braverman, a Los Angeles business man, is provisional chairman of the citizens' committee which was set up to combat racial strife soon after the outbreak of the "zoot suit riots" in Los Angeles. He also was a member of the grand jury which investigated racial problems in Los Angeles in 1942. On a visit to New York this week he wrote this article for PM suggesting a plan for combatting racial feeling here and in the rest of the Nation.)

By HARRY BRAVERMAN

New York City should set up a powerful, independent citizens committee at once to attack the forces which—if unchecked—lead to racial strife.

I believe you need the help of the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) to prepare for racial trouble just as the OCD has prepared for air raids.

Like air raids, racial strife may never hit New York as it hit Los Angeles, as it hit Beaumont, Mobile and Detroit. I hope it won't.

You New Yorkers should be able to avoid it—if you learn the lessons of our disgrace in Los Angeles, and learn them quick.

This Is Treason

One point I believe you can drive home with your committee and the help of the OCD. It is this:

¶ Any person who foments racial trouble, who encourages strife—directly or indirectly, or who wantonly participates in racial disturbances is a traitor to America.

That point should be hammered home so that every American will bear it in mind. It is one of the best safeguards that I know against race riots.

There were lots of us in Los Angeles who saw the storm coming long before it broke. Carey McWilliams (a leading national authority on minorities) has told PM readers something about that, and I won't go over ancient history.

But though we saw the storm clouds we didn't act with enough decision and unity.

Police Failure

When the storm broke Los Angeles was frightened—frightened at the failure of certain police to give any protection to the Mexican element of our population, though they are citizens.

We had cases of police saying it was a good thing that the minority elements were being mauled. It reminded them of Germany when the Nazis beat up their victims and then the police arrested them.

That is why you need a strong citizens' committee. It must be absolutely independent politically. It must have no connection with government. It must be in a position to demand police protection for the minority.

It must be so strong that any police who were so disposed would be afraid to do what the police did to Negro riot victims in Detroit.

But you in New York can't do it alone. This is a national problem—just as our battles overseas are a national concern.

We need a national committee to parallel your committee in New York and our Committee on American Unity (as we named it) in Los Angeles.

We need the President to speak out, and the FBI to act. We need to have the OWI to act, too. The Hearsts, Coxes and the rest of the defeatist press sowed the seeds of the bloody harvests in Los Angeles and Detroit. It's past time for calling a halt on their aid to the enemy.

The lightning that hit us struck at all sections of the country almost simultaneously. It was almost as if the enemy had bombed the west coast, the midwest and the south and east on the same night.

All U. S. Under Fire

That's what makes it a national problem. It wasn't "zoot-suiters," or Negroes that were under attack. It was all of us.

¶ Let your city committee be organized by your biggest businessmen, your biggest business and labor leaders, your educators and civic group leaders.

¶ It must have the backing of all your churches, your educational institutions, your labor organizations.

It must be a fighting committee, ready to slug it out if an emergency develops. But it must go to work at once. It must get a program going. It must have an emergency program ready for instantaneous action if needed.

The worst possible situation must be anticipated. Only in that way can a program be prepared.

In emergency, it should:

¶ Demand full police protection for minorities.

¶ Appeal to the public by radio.

¶ Insist on mobilization of the entire police force to disperse crowds.

¶ Rely on the cooperation of leaders of the Negro community (who would and should be members of the committee) to instruct their people to seek shelter just as in an air raid.

So much for the emergency program.

In the meantime your committee should press a program for better housing, employment, recreation and education for the minority.

And again—make it a pressure committee. We had other committees in Los Angeles which tried hard but couldn't stem the trouble because their scope was too broad; they weren't set up to wield quick, strong pressure.

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ZOOT SUITS BECOME ISSUE ON COAST

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES

LOS ANGELES, June 12—The zoot suit with the reat pleat, the drape shape and the stuff cuff has been the object of much amusement and considerable derision from Harlem to the Pacific during the last two or three years. Psychiatrists may have their own ideas abont it, but, according to the reasoning of many newcomers to the armed servies, especially hundreds of young sailors in this area, the zoot suit has become the symbol these last ten days of a fester on the body politic which should be removed by Navy vigilantes, if police will not or cannot do the job.

JUN 13 1943

Adventures of the Navy boys in trying to accomplish their purpose have been watched with such interest in all quarters—bringing cheers from some and causing concern to others—that newspapers were snatched up eagerly on downtown street corners the other day when newsboys handling late afternoon and morning "bulldog" editions shouted:

"No more zoot suits!"

"Navy bans Los Angeles!"

"Out of Bounds"

These headlines referred to the action of Rear Admiral David W. Bagley, commandant of the Eleventh Naval District, in placing this city under "temporarily restricted liberty for naval personnel." This means that only in special cases could sailors be at large in the city.

This greatly reduced, if it failed to stop altogether, clashes between small bands of zoot-suit wearers, chiefly of Mexican descent, and groups of Navy seamen out to retaliate for attacks on lone sailors or their girls by the pork-pie-hatted hoodlums.

JUN 13 1943

To some persons who have watched the development of juvenile gangs, especially in Mexican areas of Los Angeles County, in the last few years, the spectacle here this month has not been surprising.

The "zooters," investigators report, are products of slum districts, are boys of 16 to 20 years who are not intellectually inclined as a rule, who enjoy notoriety and who are not amenable to parental discipline. There is insistence on every side that the problem presented by their scraps with the Navy is not intrinsically one of race; that it is merely unfortunate, that the wearers of the zoot suits are chiefly Americans of Mexican descent, along with some Negroes.

What is the outlook? Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Chief of Police C. B. Horrall and others, including some of the State investigators, working under the direction of Governor Earl Warren, are optimistic. They believe Los Angeles will calm down and police will be able to handle the situation, even with the Navy ban lifted. Others are not so sure. They see here a serious juvenile delinquency problem which must be handled realistically.

The Army, meanwhile, has entered the picture by warning soldiers against "riotous conduct" and "inciting to riot."

JUN 13 1943

Zoot Riots Flare In Coast Suburbs

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

By WILLIAM G. PAYETTE,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

LOS ANGELES, June 9.—Riot-ing between servicemen and young zoot-suited hoodlums spread to suburban communities today in a series of bloody fights.

Trouble previously was confined generally to the navy-designated out of bounds area in Skidrow district, but today in Vernon Police patrols dispersed them the sailors had chased one zoot-suiter onto

Officer C. D. Medley suffered a broken back and body injuries when he was struck by a jalopy loaded with youths wearing rakish drape-shaped clothing.

Spectators approve.

A crowd of nearly 400 sailors roamed the Pike, amusement zone

Before police and navy shore patrols dispersed them the sailors had chased one zoot-suiter onto the beating of a soldier in Colon Monday night. Police broke up crowds of fighting men.

Meanwhile the Mexican Consul in Long Beach, in search for Mexican and Negro youths sporting

Scurry to Hide.

In El Monte, South Gate, Compton and Lynwood crowds of sailors and soldiers raided pool halls, beer joints and other places frequented by the zoot wearers but found they had scurried to hiding.

Police in Colton summoned emergency reinforcements from San Bernardino and Redlands to cope with tal[illegible] ads

JUN 13 1943

diers and marine March Field and Camp Haan seeking revenge for

In Watts an interurban electric street car bound for the Los Angeles Harbor and loaded largely with sailors was stoped by a group of youths police described as Pachucos—Mexican wearers of the pancake hat and other fancy clothing.

San Diego police prowler cars were ordered to keep a close watch for carloads and truckloads of zoot-suited youngsters after receiving reports they planned to "clean up on sailors and marines stationed at the naval and marine bases there.

sulate made an official report on the disturbances to the Washington embassy and the foreign office at Mexico City.

Attorney General Robert Kenny planned to confer with Gov. Earl Warren at the state Capitol at Sacramento about the violence.

Cop Run Down by Car.

At Vernon Patrolman Medley said he was struck when he stepped into the street to help a man lying in the road.

As the patrolman stepped from the curb an auto parked in the street suddenly started up and ran him down. The man lying in the street apparently got up and ran away.

"They were all Mexicans," Medley said, "even the decoy in the street."

Vernon, where the patrolman was injured, is an industrial suburb of Los Angeles which the navy has declared "out of bounds."

The army declared the east side of the city, including the notorious Skidrow district, out of bounds to soldiers.

Alfredo Calles, Mexican Consul, son of the former Mexican President, distributed circulars throughout the Mexican district last night advising all Mexican nationals to stay indoors after dark.

"Remain at home after dark to avoid unpleasant happenings," the circulars, printed in Spanish, said. "Stay at home during these days of unrest. We are confident that civil and military authorities will soon remedy this unpleasant situation."

Every available policeman and auxiliary policeman was on duty on the fifth night of battling between servicemen and the gaudily-garbed youths who frequent dark streets and amusement areas.

Sailors and soldiers, beaten and victimized by many of the overdressed hoodlums, formed their own police squads to clean out the areas. The zoot suiters, ordinarily intense in gang rivalry, banded together to battle the servicemen.

100 Arrests a Day.

Arrests of long-haired hoodlums with ankle-choker pants were running more than 100 a day, and several voluntarily appeared at Central jail asking to be locked up to protect themselves.

Four and five policemen covered every downtown street intersection. Roving black marias and two-way radio patrol cars cruised through the area, breaking up wandering gangs of servicemen in whatever part of the city they were found. All juveniles were hustled from the streets and zoot suiters spotted by police before servicemen arrived were taken to jail for questioning and their own protection.

Zoot Gangs Growing.

Zoot suit gangs have been growing in size for two years, affecting the amply-cut suits with their advent and finally adopting them almost as uniforms.

The gangs first contented themselves with rock throwing at each other, then graduated to clubs and knives. Several deaths resulted. Policemen attempting to intervene were assaulted and their patrol cars overturned. Girls in the feminine auxiliaries of the gangs are as tough as the youths themselves.

One auxiliary, the Black Widows, required its members to have committed theft, arson and have had at least one illicit affair.

Zoot Riots Served Purpose: To Put Mexicans in Place

Having Accomplished That, Press, With Eye on Lost Business, Calls for Sanity

This is another report on the current riots in Los Angeles by Carey McWilliams, well-known West Coast attorney, sociologist and writer, and former head of the California Division of Immigration and Housing.

PM
New York, N. Y.

By Carey McWilliams

LOS ANGELES, June 12.—The Los Angeles press, united in whipping up race hatred, is now also of one mind about the events of the last week.

"At the outset," the Los Angeles *Times* stated in a front page editorial yesterday, "zoot suiters were limited to no specific race; they were Anglo-Saxon, Latin and Negro. The fact that later on their numbers seemed to be predominantly Latin was in itself no indictment of that race at all. No responsible person at any time condemned Latin Americans, as such."

Manchester Boddy, publisher of the liberal illustrated *Daily News*, in a signed editorial this morning, has come to the conclusion that "only a ridiculously small percentage of the local Mexican population is involved in the so-called gang demonstrations. Every true Californian has an affection for his fellow citizens of Mexican ancestry that is as deep rooted as the Mexican culture that influences our way of living, our architecture, our music, our language and even our food."

Brazen Effrontery

This sudden genuflexion before the "Mexican" in the one case and "Latin American" in the other is about as brazen a piece of editorial effrontery as I have seen in my time. Throughout 1942 and particularly after August, the Los Angeles press never failed to mention a Mexican arrest, a Mexican juvenile delinquency problem, a Mexican "crime wave." And now, as by magic, the Mexican is a very fine fellow from whom we have acquired many elements in our culture.

To be sure, we have just momentarily ceased kicking him around in the streets; but it was all a great mistake and now is "the time for sanity."

It is quite clear that, from the point of view of the police and the "constituted authorities" and those who manipulate controls in the community, that the riots have served their purpose. A warning has been served upon both the Mexican and Negro communities: they are to keep in their place, mind their business, stay off the streets, keep their mouths shut, and remind themselves three or four times a day that, after all, they are only Mexicans and Negroes.

Ban Hurts Business

But, since the cessation of leaves has hurt some local businesses, the ban must be lifted at once so that the soldiers and sailors can start spending without further delay. To effect this end, it is necessary to put a good face on what has happened, to disclaim any intention of slandering the Mexican, and to cry "amity" and "peace," and "order."

What the situation calls for is a thoroughgoing public investigation preferably by a Federal agency. Such an investigation would reveal the true facts to the public. The factual situation is not confused or blurred or equivocal. The Mexican consul in Los Angeles has literally scores of affidavits about what actually happened.

Behind this ugly state of affairs is a story of Federal procrastination and ineptitude that must be told, even if it involves some personal references. In October, 1941, I submitted a detailed report to Nelson Rockefeller on the Mexican problem in California, with emphasis being placed on the Los Angeles situation. After months of delay, the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs sent David Saposs from his staff to make a spot survey of conditions throughout the Southwest.

I showed Saposs around Los Angeles and had him meet a committee of citizens who urged immediate action and who told him, in great detail, of local conditions. I am told that Saposs turned in a report which more than confirmed the statements in my earlier report and urged that an immediate action program be instituted by or with the aid of the co-ordinator.

Lopez Is Fired

Later Walter H. C. Laves, then on the staff of the CIAA, came to Los Angeles, appeared before the Grand Jury, and implied (with complete honesty on his part) that an action program would be forthcoming. More months of delay. Laves left the CIAA, being replaced by Victor Borella. More conferences in California. Finally an office was opened in Los Angeles and a Latin-American selected for the job, Ignacio Lopez.

Lopez set about the task of organizing the community in support of a real program—the obvious first step. Within a matter of weeks, Lopez was removed from his position. Washington could not wait for his resignation; he was fired. Then it was announced that the CIAA would provide funds for a citizens' group, appointed by the co-ordinator and organized as a corporation under the laws of California.

'Cultural' Committee

As chairman of this group, Rockefeller picked a former President of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Of the 25 members of the committee, which has been allotted $20,000 or $25,000, there is not one Latin American. It is apparent from the attitude of the committee that it intends to do nothing but initiate "cultural activities," via the colleges and universities, and engage in similar affairs. It has had nothing to say about the riots of the last week. Appeals to the committee to take the lead in organizing public opinion have fallen on deaf ears. So far as I know, not a single member of this committee has spoken out against the events of the last week. Their silence can only be described as hideous, and, I am tempted to add, obscene.

If the events of the last week do not succeed in arousing Washington to the seriousness of the situation, both in Los Angeles and in many other areas throughout the country, then, indeed, that deep war for democracy, which Waldo Frank has referred to, is going to suffer a serious defeat on the home front.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

4 Negro Zoot-Suiters Beaten In Philadelphia

Philadelphia, June 12 (AP)—Four Negro boys wearing zoot trousers and "pancake" hats were attacked and badly beaten on a street corner early today by twenty-five white boys in a melee in which "several shots" were fired. Patrolman Arthur Pancerie

SOLDIER KILLED IN DISTURBANCE

Pvt. Alonzo Wilson died of a bullet wound in the head and Pvt. Walter Reid was shot in the leg when military police opened fire during one of a series of disturbances which occurred during the evening.

The cause of the trouble was not given by the provost marshal's and Thomas O'Neil reported.

The latter were treated at a hospital for head and face injuries, then were arrested "for their own protection," the patrolmen said, on charges of breach of the peace. Their assailants

MERCED, Calif., Aug. 5—Rioting in the city's Negro district Friday night between [illegible] soldiers resulted in the fatal shooting of another [illegible] a state of excitement.

61-1943
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Connecticut

Negroes Attack Hartford Policemen

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 2 (AP) —Police were ordered today to "hold for questioning every person connected in any way" with an attack yesterday on two policemen and another white man by twenty Negroes.

First Deputy Chief Michael J. Godfrey said that Policeman William N. Monnier was knocked down, kicked and beaten by the mob as he tried to escort another Negro from Bulkeley Stadium during a baseball game yesterday. He was attacked again when later he located the Negro and placed him under arrest.

Policeman John Brandon, in civilian clothes, and the unidentified man, were knocked down when they came to the aid of Monnier after the alleged disturber had been arrested. The group fled, taking the arrested man with them.

The deputy chief said that Policeman Monnier was on duty at the Stadium and sought to expel the Negro who he said had been drinking and was abusive to other spectators.

The mob gathered around the officer and threw him to the ground, permitting the Negro to escape. When Monnier was released he ran outside the park, found the man and arrested him.

The mob followed, however, and again attacked the policeman, cutting his ear and brusing his face. Policeman Brandon and the unidentified civilian were not injured.

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D. C.

Riot Rumors Keep D.C. On Edge For Entire Week

Chicago Defender Chicago, Illinois

MAY 15 1943

By HARRY McALPIN
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON— This city was seething with rumors of a race riot last week-end which, according to rumors, was to climax the mass meeting of the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities.

The mass meeting was held last Friday night in a park area in "downtown" Washington. The meeting was the highlight of a week in which the committee focused attention on the failure of the Capital Transit company to hire Negroes as bus and street car operators in compliance with an order from the Fair Employment Psactice Committee.

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The rumors came to the Negro community second-handedly. It was the white community which seemed stirred up and spreading the rumors. They were aided and abetted by Rep. "Rabid" Rankin (D. of Miss.) who made a one-minute speech on the floor of the House Friday morning in which he declared that the action of the majority of the House in signing the poll-tax petition and Rep. Vito Marcantonio's intention to speak at the mass meeting was stirring up a race riot in Washington while "our good white boys of the South are fighting and dying on every battlefield of the world."

Cops Accompany Parade

The rumors of a riot were taken seriously by police and military officials. When the Negroes and liberal whites representing churches, fraternal orders and labor unions, gathered at 10th and U streets, N.W., in a colored neighborhood, to form their lines for the parade to the park where the meeting was scheduled, there were at least 75 uniformed police on hand, about 30 military policemen and shore patrolmen of the navy, and innumerable plainclothesmen of the police department and the FBI. They accompanied the parade and stayed through the meeting.

The parade went off without incident. So did the meeting in the park, though the area was declared "out of bounds" for military and navy personnel. The park, however, was directly across the street from the Almas Temple, home of the shriners. A bagpipe and tom-tom serenade, which repeated over and over the same eight bars of music throughout the meeting, seemed a deliberate effort to drown out the the speaking, which was being attempted in the early stages without benefit of a microphone and loudspeaker. The tom-tom beaters were leaning out the upper story windows of the temple, beating their tattoo. The musicless noise abruptly ceased when the meeting was concluded.

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All police leaves were cancelled for the weekend, as were the leaves of soldiers at Fort Belvoir, just below Washington in Virginia, where a large number of Negroes are in training. It was also reported that a request had been made of the school system to close the schools Friday afternoon as a precaution against the expected riot.

Daniels 'Alarmed'

Jonathan Daniels, one of the President's assistants "with a passion for anonymity," and one of the "southern liberal experts on Negro affairs" is reported to have excitedly called Lawrence Cramer, executive secretary of the FEPC, on Thursday night concerning the riot rumors. A bus driver was overheard discussing it on his run. A soda-jerk in a drugstore was heard helping spread the rumor. A number of liberal whites called their Negro friends concerning the way the rumors were spreading throughout the white community.

But the meeting and parade were held on schedule. About 800 persons were in attendance. Rep. Vito Marcantonio of New York spoke, as did Rev. W. H. Jernagin, president of the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches of America; Joe Phillips, president of Local 203 of the United Federal Workers of America; Charles Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee of New York City; Leighton Williams, AFL Hotel and Restaurant Workers local; Doxey A. Wilkerson, on leave as associate professor of education at Howard university, and now with OPA; and W. S. Johnson of the Restaurant Workers Union, Local 209.

The police on the scene were being personally supervised by Major Edward Kelly, chief of police, and assistant superintendent of police, Harvey G. Callahan. District Commissioner John Russell Young was present also.

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Campaign to Continue

The campaign does not end with the Friday night meeting, the Committee on Jobs announced this week. Sales of "I Support" tags of which 15,000 were sold last week, will go on. Resolutions to President Roosevelt, E. D. Merrill, president of the Capital Transit company, and R. B. Deschner, director, D. C. War Manpower Commission, will continue to be sent from organization and white and Negro churches.

Already 75 resolutions have been sent from local churches and about 80 from national and local organizations with a score or more to come. Five thousand post cards are flooding the offices of the Capital Transit company, the D. C. War Manpower Commission and the White House.

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The Committee itself has sent a letter direct to the President stating: "Four thousand citizens of this community, representatives of hundreds of civic, church, trade union, fraternal and other organizations in Washington and the nation at large, wholeheartedly support our country's struggle to defeat the fascist menace to our democracy and the freedom of the world. As loyal Americans we appeal to you to break the bottle-neck in war transportation in the nation's capital by insisting upon the immediate employment of Negro bus and street car operators."

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FBI

New York, N. Y.

Spread of Fantastic Rumors Helps to Incite Race Riots

By Albert Deutsch

JUL 27 1943

Awaiting basic solutions of riot-creating racial tensions—inequality in living and working conditions, undemocratic Jim Crow mores, etc.—we can guard ourselves against a potent catalytic agent for precipitating riots: hate rumors. Now, race riots are rarely caused by rumors alone. But the evidence of the recent past proves that rumor-mongering can provoke riots, and intensify their fury once they are unloosed.

Detroit was rife with hate-inciting rumors immediately before and during the bloody rioting. Negroes were moving into Detroit en masse to capture the jobs of white war workers. A Negro woman had been torn to pieces by a white mob. A white woman's baby had been thrown off the bridge by a Negro mob, at the point where the rioting started.

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Washington Near-Riot

Similarly, in Beaumont, Texas, scene of another bloody race riot last Spring, a widespread—and widely believed—rumor had been circulated for months that the Negroes were planning an uprising on June 10 or June 19.

The Nation's capital itself narrowly averted a rumor-inspired race riot a few weeks ago. Two mild demonstrations against anti-Negro discrimination became the focal points of wild and vicious rumor-mongering. One was the peaceable, and successful, picketing of a Jim Crow restaurant by Howard University students. The other was a scheduled parade and mass meeting to urge employment of Negroes by Washington bus and trolley lines.

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The Common Council for American Unity thus describes the rumor orgy evoked by these events:

"Among the fantastic rumors spread before the mass meeting was one that all banks were to be robbed; that the parade was to become a full-fledged invasion of the capital; that 800 thugs were being imported from New York to invade the city; that street cars had been overturned by Negroes; that nearby Ft. Belvoir had cancelled all leaves for Negro soldiers in anticipation of riots.

JUL 27 1943

"Public building guards told women clerks to get off the streets before 6 p.m. Stories that Negroes had bought up all the pocket knives and ice picks were revived. Bus and cab drivers whispered cautions to white passengers to get off the streets. Congressman Rankin shouted on the House floor that everyone knew that a riot was about to break in Washington. Tension mounted over a period of days.

Rumors Scotched

Fortunately, the local papers scotched the rumors by exposing their falsity. The churches and radio also got on the job. The OWI and the Dept. of Justice co-operated, and the police force kept its head. The peaceful parade was led by the police chief, and the mass meeting proceeded in orderly and democratic fashion.

JUL 27 1943

An OWI survey of wartime rumors, conducted some months ago, found that "hate rumors" were by far the most numerous and most important.

JUL 27 1943

The OWI has published some simple anti-rumor rules to guide Americans, which are timely in connection with racial tensions:

¶ Never repeat a rumor.

¶ Do not repeat a rumor verbally even to deny it.

¶ If you know the facts that can spike a rumor, cite the facts.

¶ If you do not know the facts which can stop a rumor, ask the rumor-teller where he got his facts.

JUL 27 1943

¶ Don't give a rumor the benefit of any doubt.

Afro-Americ
Baltimore,

Colored, White Seamen Clash in Liverpool

LONDON—About 1000 persons witnessed a clash between colored and white American seamen in a Liverpool street recently.

Ten of the white sailors were arrested and turned over to American authorities, and four of the colored men were fined $8 each for disorderly conduct.

U. S. Military Police in Britain in a Clash With Negro Soldiers; Six Injured in Fight

New York Times

LONDON, June 25 (AP) — Five United States enlisted men and one officer were reported today to have been injured in a fight between American military police and Negro troops in Northwest England last night.

A statement issued by headquarter of the United States Army in the European Theatre of Operations said:

"An investigation into a fight between military policemen and a small group of Negro soldiers was conducted tonight by headquarters of the European Theatre of Operations of the United States Army.

"Early reports indicated that the fight began when military policemen remonstrated with Negro soldiers behaving in a disorderly manner in the street of a town in Northwest England.

"The situation was never out of control, it was stated by the local commander.

"Injured in the fight were five enlisted soldiers and one officer.

"One man, Private William Grosslands, colored, was stated to be seriously injured.

"The officer is First Lieut. David D. Ousset. His injuries were not considered serious. The other enlisted men were not badly hurt."

Lieutenant Ousset is from San Antonio, Tex. He is whites, as are the military police involved. Private Grosslands is from Gibson, N. C.

New York, N. Y.

Papers Avoid the Incident

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, June 25—Whether by accident or direction, the edition here of The Stars and Stripes, American service paper, has had no space for news of the race riots in Detroit. Its policy is to avoid controversial subjects.

British newspapers have displayed stories of the disorder in Detroit fairly prominently, taking the curse off them somewhat with editorials explaining that the American war effort is tremendous in spite of race riots, the rationing muddle, the coal strike and all that.

But the news gets around by word of mouth even at those United States Army bases where the circulation of newspapers is limited. Both Negro and white troops throughout Britain knew there had been trouble in Detroit.

Whether last night's fight between Americans of different color at a Northwest English town arose out of purely local friction or something more subtle or remote remains to be seen. The United States Army is investigating that phase of the matter. Local papers generally were silent on the incident.

Our Negro troops are quartered in various parts of Britain. In some they have been accepted as American Indians. At first there was some animosity against the United States for not granting social equality to Negroes. It was a convenient counter to American criticism of the British attitude toward India. Now that attitude has changed.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

6 HURT IN FIGHT OF NEGROES AND MILITARY POLICE

LONDON, June 25 (AP).—Five United States enlisted men and one officer were reported today to have been injured in a fight between military police and Negro troops in northwest England last night.

A statement issued by headquarters of the United States army in the European theater of operations said reports indicated that "the fight began when military policemen remonstrated with Negro soldiers behaving in a disorderly manner" in a town street. It reported that one of the Negroes was wounded seriously.

The statement said an investigation was being conducted.

The Negro soldier believed seriously injured is Pvt. William Grosslands of Lisbon, N. C.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Six Yanks Hurt as Troops, Army Police Clash in England

London, June 25.—Five United States enlisted men and one officer were reported today to have been injured in a fight between military police and Negro troops in northwest England last night.

A statement issued by headquarters of the United States Army in the European theater of operations said early reports indicated that "the fight began when military policemen remonstrated with Negro soldiers behaving in a disorderly manner" in a town street.

"The situation was never out of control, it was stated by the local commander," headquarters said.

It reported that one of the Negroes was wounded seriously.

"One man, Pvt. William Grosslands, colored, of Gibson, N. C. was stated to be seriously injured," the statement said.

"The officer is First Lieut. David D. Ousset. His injuries were not considered serious. The other enlisted men were not badly hurt."

Lieutenant Ousset, who is from San Antonio, Tex., is white, as are the military police involved.

Probe Outbreak

Pittsburgh Courier

LONDON, July 8—U. S. Army headquarters stated Friday that investigations of last week's disturbances in a town in Northwest England between military police and a small group of colored doughboys are still underway. There is nothing to report yet.

Meanwhile, Pvt. William Grosslands, seriously injured in the disturbances, died in the hospital from his injuries. Five transfusions failed to save his life. Four other injured soldiers are reported improved or completely recovered.—(Randy Dixon).

Negro Soldiers In Clash Abroad

Military Police and Colored Group Fight in English Town

PM
New York, N. Y.

The European theater headquarters of the U. S. Army issued the following statement in London Friday night:

"An investigation into a fight between military police and a small group of Negro soldiers was being conducted tonight by the headquarters of the European theater of the U. S. Army.

"Early reports indicated that the fight began when military policemen remonstrated with the Negro soldiers for behaving in a disorderly manner in the street of a town in Northwest England.

"The situation was never out of control it was stated by the local commander. Injured in the fight were five enlisted soldiers and one officer.

"One man, Pvt. William Grosslands, colored, was said to be seriously injured.

"The officer is 1st Lt. David D. Ousset. His injuries were not considered serious. Other enlisted men were not badly hurt."

No official amplification of the statement was made.

Only one other serious incident between white and Negro American soldiers has been reported in the British Isles. That occurred last Sept. 3, when a Negro was stabbed to death as military police intervened in a brawl outside a pub in the village of Antrim, Northern Ireland.

But some feeling has been generated by public claims in Britain that the U. S. Army brought Jim Crow customs along.

Only a few days before the incident, Thomas Driberg, Independent, declared in the House of Commons that American forces in Britain were discriminating against Negroes, and asked Prime Minister Churchill to "make friendly representations to American military authorities, requesting them to instruct their men that the color bar is not a custom in Britain."

Churchill replied that "the question is certainly unfortunate" and he hoped the "points of view of all concerned would be mutually understood and respected" without any action on his part.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

U. S. Soldier Dies In Britain Clash

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—Private William Grosslands of Gibson, N. C., died in a British hospital Thursday night of injuries sustained during a fight between Negro soldiers and white MP's in a northwest English town.

Grosslands was one of five Negro soldiers injured in the clash.

Report Soldiers' Clash in England

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

The War Department this week stated that it received no official account of a reported clash in which colored and white troops fought with knives on the outskirts of a Wiltshire (England) village on September 26.

Press reports say that a number of soldiers were injured, several seriously and that American troops have been barred from the town by U.S. military authorities.

On the same day two military police were reported wounded in a shooting affray in a town in Cornwall. A fist fight between two American soldiers attending a dance is said to have precipitated the shooting which took place the following night.

One group of Americans arrived at the town square, each man carrying a clip of 60 rounds of ammunition hidden beneath his coat and ambushed another party leaving a hotel. The soldiers fought for 10 minutes before order was restored.

61-1943 General

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

WORLD VIEW

By JOHN ROBERT BADGER

Hitlerism In America

THE CONTINUOUS attacks on Negroes throughout the United States, culminating in the massacre of Detroit, reflect the face of fascism. They are but a rehearsal of the anti-Negro pogroming which would inevitably follow the accession to power in this country of a regime composed of the leaders of the present Fifth Column — the Hearsts Hoovers, Coughlins, Gerald Smiths, Ham Fishes Martin Dies, and their Ku Kluxing, poll-taxing henchmen.

In these attacks we have a preview of the way such a regime would consolidate its power. As Hitler found anti-Semitism to be the weakest link in German national unity, so would an American Fascist clique utilize the ancient race prejudices in this country to split asunder every united segment of the people, the better to enslave them all.

Not only for Negro-Americans, but for all Americans, the hour is a grave one. To many a mind must come the thought: "What shall it profit us to cross the seas to destroy Hitler, if Hitlerism is to rise triumphant over our homes?"

This very thought indicates the right way to view these attacks, the way that will give us perspective and a program. This is to view them against the background of the international situation. Such a viewpoint is the key to correct policy.

International Aspects

THE TIMING of these riots is the most significant thing about them. Race riots here are not new or unusual. Both in the Reconstruction period and in the years following World War I, numerous riots broke out all over the country. But these riots are different. They occurred at a particular moment in world history. They occurred at a time—

1. When the Fascist Axis had sunk to its lowest mark of military achievement in the present war, having suffered fully a year of reverses on the Soviet front, been kicked out of Africa, and lost ground and precious forces in the Pacific and Asiatic theatres.

2. When the Allied forces in the Soviet Union, Britain, Africa and the Pacific area stood poised for the great offensive which is intended to inflict the death-blow on Hitlerite Europe and mortally wound Japan.

3. When the Fascist Axis, conscious of its military predicament, had set off a series of diplomatic maneuvers, peace feelers, trial-balloons, lies and propaganda stunts to split the United Nations, to gain time, and to establish a basis for peace negotiations.

4. When the American Fifth Column, having failed to halt the growth of national unity and to sabotage armament production, had launched a major attack in apparent desperation.

In this pattern, the continuous attacks on Negroes during the last few weeks acquire a special meaning. They were part and parcel of the Axis-Fifth Column strategy. They were acts of treason, committed to provoke a condition of insurrection within the United States, to destroy national unity and thus undermine the base of arms production hence to stop the Allied attack on Hitlerite Europe and save European fascism.

An Historical Lesson

THIS SPECIAL meaning of these riots, a meaning I am convinced is the real one, gives the cue for our policy. It is here we need to think clearly—and coolly.

To react to these riots according to the inclination of most of us — that is, to give way to rage and hatred, withdrawing further into our little individual ghettoes and damning all white America, kit and kaboodle — would be but to play into the hands of the Axis-Fifth Column. That is precisely what they hope we will do.

The other way is to fight the Axis-Fifth Column. We have to answer every attempt to isolate us by extending and strengthening our ties with our natural allies — the trade unions and the Administration. This may seem the hard way, but it is the safest and soundest in the long run.

Let us not forget the example of our fathers and grandfathers in a situation almost the exact parallel of the present one. It occurred during the Civil War, when President Lincoln was mobilizing volunteers in preparation for destroying the slave power. At that very moment, the Slave Power's Fifth Column above the Mason and Dixon Line — the Copperhead conspirators, as they were called — incited riots against Negroes in the northern cities. Many Negroes were killed and injured. But 83,000 Negroes answered Lincoln's call and helped crush the Slave Power. One need not wonder long about what would have been the fate of the Union; and ourselves, had the Copperhead Conspiracy succeeded.

Today, as then, history is with us. Riots will not turn it back.

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

THE MONTGOMERY WAY

On the same day two items appeared on the newsstands. One was a letter to The Advertiser from Rev. S. H. Marion, pastor of Montgomery's Old Ship Church. The other was a Collier's Magazine article by Walter Davenport, optimistically titled "Race Riots Coming."

The Marion letter records the fact that the generosity of Montgomery's white citizens, together with the contributions of Old Ship's own membership, have made it possible to wipe out the mortgage which has been hanging over the church for many years. The letter invites those white people who may be interested to attend the mortgage-burning ceremony on Monday night, Sept. 13, and lists a distinguished group of white and colored religious leaders who will speak at this special service. The letter may have no special significance, but it does indicate the sort of relationship between the races that prevails here in Montgomery, where the white citizenry is ever ready to lend a helping hand to whatever is worthy among the Negroes, and the colored community has demonstrated that it will contribute according to its means to whatever helps the community as a whole.

The purpose of the Davenport article is more obscure. Just what Mr. Davenport had in mind remains unclear after reading. Certainly the prediction that race riots are brewing will do nothing to curb them, and the list of various tensions, when listed in the Davenport manner, serves only to accent the friction.

In one paragraph Mr. Davenport doubts that government action could have prevented the tragic riots at Detroit, Beaumont and elsewhere. In another he suggests Federal prosecution for rioters. He quotes extremists on both sides of the racial fence, listing demands which can only succeed in heightening tempers that need cooling. One wonders if Mr. Davenport is as much interested in racial peace as in a good, sensational article.

Along with his more sensational hodgepodge of quotes, Mr. Davenport does manage to get in a few very sane bits, among them a suggestion which The Pittsburgh Courier, Negro paper, carries on its front page: "Carrying a perpetual chip on your shoulder helps no one, least of all yourself! Watch your public conduct, others do."

From Portland, Maine, came a response to the Davenport questions which could have been duplicated by many other towns north and south: "The Negro problem in Portland is the least of our worries. We have others in sufficient number. Want to hear them?"

Looking at race relations from a Montgomery street corner, and without any pretentions at expertness, it seems to us that Montgomery is relatively free from the frictions and tensions which beset some communities. Montgomery's people seem to know how to get along with one another, and this ability to get along peaceably and in a friendly, helpful spirit crosses racial lines.

Montgomery is the kind of a town where a dozen white preachers will pause in their Sunday morning services to ask for a special collection to aid a colored congregation in distress, and where the collections yield substantial amounts. Montgomery is the kind of town where those who benefited from this gesture want their white friends to share in the celebration of their freedom from debt.

Let Mr. Davenport take note of this and hope, with us, that sanity and justice may prevail. Sanity and justice will prevail in Montgomery.

FBI Chief Blasts At Race Riots

Defender Chicago, Ill.

DETROIT—Civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police here last week.

Calling upon police officers to recognize their responsibility for law enforcement and to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace in the case of such outbreaks, Mr. Hoover said that the war could be won on the sea and in the air and land campaigns and yet be lost on the home front.

In a direct attack on race riots, the director stated:

"Another problem which is rapidly reaching flood time proportions involves civil violence, race riots, and insidious campaigns against minority groups. It is a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans that altercations between individuals can touch community-wide conflagrations, which are often seized upon, by young teen-age hoodlums, of both sexes, to indulge in depredations of all kinds against property and persons.

"Law enforcement is not responsible for such outbreaks. But, once lawless bands of people begin to take matters into their own hands, law enforcement does become re-

When outbursts occur, restore peace. If force must be met, see to it that the pro-public resistance are w
pitting race against race, creed with force, murder rage, only
against creed, every officer must be where law and
recognize his responsibility and is weak. . ."
realize that the only intelligent aled in superior strength without
course of action is to adopt vigor delay and that they function for
pus, prompt and firm measures to the good of all, with proper regard
for the rights of all. Remember
that crime thrives, violence and

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE MEETS FOR RIOT STUDY

SEP 28 1943

Chicago Tribune

Labor Leader, Educator Will Speak Today.

Causes of race riots, with particular attention to the recent troubles in Detroit, Mich., and other locations, will be discussed today at the opening sessions of the National Urban league in Central Y. M. C. A., 19 South La Salle street. Leaders said the meeting would constitute a "riot clinic" under the auspices of the race relations and public morale branch of the nation-wide Negro and inter-racial organization.

Frederick B. Sweet of Detroit, official of the United Automobile Workers union; and Ira DeA. Reid of Atlanta university, will lead the opening tanks. More than 800 delegates from 48 branches will attend. The conference is the 33d annual one.

Roosevelt Writes Confernece.

President Roosevelt said in a letter to the conference:

"Men of all races—black, brown, white, and yellow—fight beside us for freedom. We cannot stand before the world as a champion of oppressed peoples unless we practice as well as preach the principals of democracy for all men. Racial conflict deminishes war production, cuts down the flow of planes and guns, and increases the toll of American lives. The National Urban league is welding together in this cause men of good will of all races."

Governor to Greet Delegates.

Delegates will be welcome to the city and conference by Gov. Dwight H. Green and Mayor E. J. Kelly tonight at a meeting in the Du Sable High school, 49th street and Wabash avenue.

Morning sessions will be held at the Parkway Community center, 5120 South Park way; afternoon sessions, open to the public, will be at the Central Y. M. C. A.

Hoover Calls On Police to Smash Riots

AUG 10 1943

RM New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondence

DETROIT, Aug. 10.—J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the Nation's police chiefs, in convention here, that they must marshal their forces "in superior strength without delay" in any outbreaks occurring in their cities.



J. Edgar Hoover

"Race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups rapidly are reaching flood proportions," Hoover told the police chiefs.

"Once lawless bands of people begin to take matters into their own hands, the only intelligent course is to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace.

"If force must be met with force, see to it that the protectors of law and order are marshaled in superior strength without delay. Remember that violence and murder rage only where law and public resistance are weak."

Hoover made no specific reference to Detroit's recent riot which took 35 lives.

"The real trouble lies underneath," he concluded, "and we of law enforcement have a right to expect that the situation be recognized and corrected by those civic forces directly charged with such responsibilities.

"We are fighting for freedom of speech, but I hope the day will come when it will be recognized that freedom of speech does not carry with it the license to destroy, incite, subvert and misrepresent the truth."

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Quick Action of Police Averts Riot at Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. —Quick action of city and military police averted a riot here early Sunday, but a Negro shot through the left eye when a group of soldiers attempted to force their way into a cafe may lose the sight of both his eyes, hospital authorities said today.

Roger Mitchell, 28 years old, Negro soldier from Vancouver Barracks, and apparently leader of the group attempting to force entry into the club, was injured.

Eben B. Morris, 56, one of two guards at the club, is being held on $5,000 bail on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Mitchell told police when he and two other Negro soldiers were barred from the club they found several friends and returned. They were met at the door by Morris, who, according to police reports, admitted firing two shots and saw Mitchell fall after the second shot.

Police rapidly dispersed a large holiday crowd which had gathered.

Colliers Sees More Race Riots

SEP 18 1943

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

There will be more race riots because neither federal nor local governments have done anything to correct the immediate or underlying causes of the recent disastrous uprisings which cost human lives in widely separated parts of the United States, Walter Davenport states in the current issue of Collier's Weekly.

"We are going to have more race riots," writes Davenport in a thorough discussion of their causes and what they portend. "Any nation as insistent upon warfare between its blacks and whites as we are, is certain to succeed....It is quite clear that both races still have chips on their shoulders and that each will continue to knock off the other's with bloody results unless the government ceases soon to avoid the issue."

Davenport, whose article is based on personal investigation as well as information supplied by governors and Collier's representatives in all parts of the country, states that "neither federal nor local government, north or south, has done anything to remove the fundamental causes for race riots or to correct any of the conditions that generate them.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

RIOTS LAID TO HOUSING LACK

AUG 8 1943

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Attorney General Biddle expressed the opinion today that improper housing and recreational facilities for both Negroes and whites had been a contributing factor to the Detroit riots and "other racial or hoodlum clashes" in recenth months.

Biddle made his observations in a letter to Lester B. Granger, eexcutive secretary of the National Urban League, New York City, who had written to express concern over statements attributed to Biddle reports to President Roosevelt on racial problems.

Granger said an article in The New York Post rceated "a storm of discussion among white liberals, as well as Negroes," in that "many persons have leaped to the assumption that you have proposed to the President that the powers of the federal government be invoked to control the migration of Negroes as distinguisher from other groups of war workers."

Biddle replied that any suggestions he made to the President were "strictly confidential" and that it would be "highly inappropriate" for him to comment on their contents.

Biddle told Granger he did not feel any effort should be made to prevent the free movement of individuals from one place to another, whether Negro or white, except as war requirement for manpower must be met.

Guardian Boston, Mass

HARLEM, DETROIT INVESTIGATIONS JUST PURE NONSENCE

Boston, and New England in general, is most skeptical of the Harlem and Detroit "findings" as causes for the recent rioting. The people of this area, moreover, are utterly unimpressed by the majority of hurried "solutions" now flooding Washington.

Evading The Issue

The simple truth of the matter is that trouble in Harlem and trouble in Detroit has been brewing for years. The fact that "hoodlums" may have spearheaded the recent outbreaks is only a secondary matter. In Detroit it was the white "hoodlums"; in Harlem it was the Colored. More citizens were killed in the fracas started by the white "hoodlums" than was the case in the recent comparatively minor riot in New York. Thus when we relegate these tragic outbreaks to a mere "hoodlum" status we are not getting anywhere towards any solution and there certainly is no more of a "smear" on the Colored race than is on the white. It is now all too obvious that current "investigatons" and solutions are not getting a the roots of the evil. Unless we do so there is practically no use in wasting our collective efforts any further.

Boston Exposed Facts

Walter White, NAACP national secretary, predicted right here in Boston a month ago that riot tension existed in at least 20 other cities throughout the nation. What is even more important, Mr. White pointed out the roots of the evil and he was unanimously supported by Boston NAACP president, Julian D. Steele, and prominent white and colored [illegible] field, of labor and other agencies. Notwithstanding these and other more authoritative "findings" by men devoting years of study to the subject, the Detroit and Harlem investigators have blindly ignored the truth. Official "bigwigs" have now been white-washed here in the north just as one would expect in the south. The "findings" now contend that there were no reasons for Colored discontent in the riot areas. In the Detroit area, for example, we are to assume that housing and recreational facilities for Colored are excellent. We are led to believe that no blocs of racial prejudice exist to promote racial strife; that there have been no "walk-outs" when Colored workers were

AUG 21 1943

does not live in the slums.

posing the hidden truth.

Meanwhile, there is utterly no reason to become [illegible] about this situation to relegating race riots to something we ex-so called hoodlums—unless we [illegible]. I don't be-consider some hoodlums living man believes in high places and directing national policy. Every "hoodlum" [illegible] with joy.

[illegible] son to become [illegible] ler, ex-Gov. Talmadge, without reason. Westbrook Peg look for [illegible] to all intelligent [illegible] ing us in ex-

AUG 21 1943

Are Getting Nowhere

The "bigwigs" of every riot Bilbo, will jump with j[illegible] There is no reason t[illegible] There is now been cleared. Mr. overly frantic about t[illegible] tion. It is something [illegible] "Un-Ameri-tion. It is something [illegible] has now been pected right along. I [illegible] ple believe every white man [illegible] truth satisfied [illegible] were responsible for all the such silly slander and [illegible] revealed at Boston Arena

61-1943
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

400 Labor, Civic Leaders Ask Action on Race Riots

More than 400 labor and civic leaders have joined, in three days, in an appeal to President Roosevelt for action to stop the fifth-column outbreak of attacks on Negroes and other minorities all over the country, it was announced today by the International Labor Defense.

More than 100 clergymen and religious leaders were among those who responded to a call issued by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the ILD, Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union, and the Rev. William Howard Melish, rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, N. Y., Almost as many labor leaders and educators were among the first 400 to respond.

Calling attention to the murderous riots in Detroit, Los Angeles, Beaumont, Mobile, and the growing incidents of anti-minority violence throughout the country, including attacks on Negro members of the armed forces, and to the leadership which President Roosevelt has shown in combatting Nazi theories and practices of racialism, the letter says:

HIGH SERIOUSNESS

"It is with high seriousness of purpose that we urge you to go before the people of America and the people of the world and speak out against those forces attempting to tear the fabric of national unity. We urge you to make an historic fireside chat dealing specifically with the events mentioned in this letter. We urge you to place your high office back of guarantees that Negro people and other minority groups will be freed from every hindrance which prevents their full participation in the war effort; that every member of our armed forces will be given full and adequate protection by the Federal government wherever he may be. And we urge you to effectuate these vitally necessary declarations with proper directives to the various agencies of government under your direction.

"Such action will sustain the morale of 13 million Negro people and millions of other minority groups whose labor and devotion are essential to victory. Such action will extend its influence to hundreds of millions of peoples of darker races throughout the world, without whose support the war cannot be won. Such action, we believe, will win the deepest understanding and response of all the American people."

Among the first 400 signatories to the letter are:

Guy Emery Shipler, editor, The Churchman; John Warren Day, Dean of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas; Rt. Rev. Harry S. Longley, Episcopal Bishop of Iowa; Rev. Julian A. Taylor, Ansonia, Conn.; Judge James S. Watson, New York City; Judge Arthur L. LeSueur, Minneapolis; Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack and Daniel L. Burrows, New York; Charles H. Houston, Washington, D. C.; Emil Lengyel, New York; Lyman Beecher Stowe, New York; James Egert Allen, president, New York State National Association for Advancement of Colored People; George S. Schuyler, associate editor, the Pittsburgh Courier; John Green, president, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America; Joseph Curran, president, National Maritime Union; O. A. Knight, president, Oil Workers International Union; Abram Flaxer, president, State, County and Municipal Workers of America; C. Pat Quinn, president, Wayne County (Detroit) Industrial Union Council; Frank Dutto, president, Bakers Union Local 1, New York; Douglas L. MacMahon, president, Local 100, (New York) Transport Workers Union; Also H. K. Craft, executive secretary, Harlem Y. M. C. A.; Barbara G. Locke, secretary, New London, Conn.; YWCA; Benjamin Glassberg, superintendent, Dept. of Public Assistance, Milwaukee; H. D. Burrell, Welfare Federation of Newark, N. J.; Sol C. Rodin, secretary, Brith Achim, Philadelphia; Prof. Rufus E. Clement, president, Atlanta University; William A. Neilson, president emeritus, Smith College; Prof. Jerome Hall, Indiana University Law School; Prof. George H. Hull, emeritus, Princeton; Prof. William P. Gray, Smith College; Prof. Irving Fisher, emeritus, Yale; Dr. H. G. Lull, head, Dept. of Education, Kansas State Teachers College; Rev. Henry B. Robins, professor emeritus, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Cacchione Warns Of Plots Here

New York City can prevent the occurrence of anti-Negro riots such as were staged in Detroit only by ferreting out fifth column agitators and a planned program of interracial cooperation, Councilman Peter V. Cacchione, Brooklyn Communist, declared in a radio broadcast last night.



Peter V. Cacchione

Warning that fifth column elements were at work in New York City as well as in Detroit, Councilman Cacchione called for activity in every local organization to bring about racial harmony. Mr. Cacchione's remarks were made in the course of an interview by S. W. Gerson, Communist Party legislative director, over radio station WQXR.

KKK RESPONSIBLE

Declaring that the Ku Klux Klan and Gerald L. K. Smith were among those responsible for the Detroit anti-Negro riots, Cacchione said that beyond the Negro people the real victim in these riots was "the democratic cause for which we are fighting."

"The main lesson that we must draw from these riots is that we must be alert on the home front," Cacchione said. "The home front must be brought up on a par with the military front. It is sad to state that the home front is not equal to the military front. The fifth column has been too successful in spreading disunity within our ranks, in carrying out its program of obstructing our war effort."

"Do you really think that New York City is in the same danger that Detroit was?" the Councilman was asked.

"No, I don't think it's in exactly the same danger," he replied. "We have a good, progressive labor movement in New York City. Our population is generally progressive. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be on guard.

"We know that there are prejudices existing among sections of the working people, yes, even honest workers. We have to be ever on guard and alert against those groups that would fan those prejudices into actual riots."

Cacchione discussed his resolution, now before the Rules Committee in the City Council, to set up a seven-man committee to investigate groups inciting racial and religious antagonisms. His resolution provides that the committee should make administrative and legislative recommendations based on its findings.

In the course of his broadcast, Councilman Cacchione made a special appeal to organizations composed of white members to take the initiative in strengthening racial harmony.

"Every organization in New York City must take responsibility, and I want to appeal here especially to the white population," the Councilman said. "The Negro people are a persecuted minority in America and they never instigate riots; and therefore the main responsibility rests with the white people to bring about this cooperation between all groups that is so much desired, especially during the period of the war.

STOP RUMORS

"There must be meetings held in Negro neighborhoods with prominent white speakers coming in, prominent civic leaders; and in white neighborhoods, there must be meetings with prominent Negro leaders coming and speaking to the white population."

Cacchione endorsed the Mayor's advice about rumors.

"Scotch every rumor and trace down its source and its origin," he suggested. "Remember, whenever anyone retails a rumor, that person consciously or unconsciously is following out the Hitler pattern in America. He is doing just what Hitler wants him to do, spreading disunity within our ranks. Don't believe any rumor and don't repeat any rumor you hear."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

A WAVE OF RIOTING.

In the last few days the wires have brought reports of riots and disturbances in many sections of the country. Racial conflicts seem to account for most if not all of these outbreaks, in localities as widely scattered as Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, Mobile, and Beaumont, Tex. Chicagoans read the other day with a sinking of the heart of the arrest on the west side of a number of high school students who were apparently about to engage in riot; the community can congratulate itself on the effective work of the police in preventing trouble and, more especially, on the fact that in this incident there was no element of racial conflict.

After the last war Chicago and other cities knew the disgrace of race rioting. It must not be allowed to happen again here. The community must realize that war excites men's passions and is, therefore, likely to fire the less stable elements in the population to violence against their neighbors. The circumstance that customary living and working habits are altered adds greatly to the danger.

All over the country men of good will must devote attention to the problem. Clergymen of all faiths, we know, will preach against racial conflict. Newspapers will do their part. Public officials will be on the alert to prevent disorders. Leaders of all our racial groups, white as well as colored, must counsel their people against provocative behavior. The danger can be averted if it is frankly faced.

It would be helpful if, at this juncture, the President himself were to speak out. He can explain, particularly to the southern communities, that the demands of war have forced changes in the accustomed economic relationships of the races in the south and that the immediate welfare of the nation demands acceptance of the alteration. He can explain to Los Angeles that our government's relations toward Latin America have been injured by the rioting against Mexicans there. A clear word from him might prove exceedingly helpful in preventing further trouble.

We can only hope that political considerations will not discourage him from speaking along the suggested lines. What he would have to say would displease many of his southern followers and the better he said it the more it would displease them, but if he were forthright in his declaration he could do a great deal to spare the nation the humiliation of race rioting.

Radio Roundup

PM
New York, N. Y.

Race Riots

BY RADIO

Lester Velie (WQXR) said last night that Fascist elements in this country have discovered a subtle and most effective means of sabotage in the race riots which have taken place in Detroit and other parts of the country. (*See Pages* 10-19.) To Velie the Hitler's attempt to deprive the United Nations of the successes achieved on the battle fields." He explained: "The Nazis are now fighting a last ditch spontaneous." He stated that they were obviously inspired by the "same rag tag elements who were willing pawns of Nazi agents before the war and may be paid agents of the Nazis now."

Hans Jacob (WOV) called the race riots "fostering unrest and riots. What the Germans fear more than anything else is unity among their enemies and they will fight this unity with every means at their disposal."

Johannes Steel (WNYC) pointed out that the race riots have occurred in an area

where Gerald L. K. Smith, head of The America First Party and pro-Fascist Committee of One Million, is particularly strong. He added that it is an area in which native Fascism has made use of fundamental economic and social conditions to increase racial friction.

JUN 23 1943

"One of these conditions" Steel said, "is the fact that hundreds of thousands of Southerners—white and Negro—came there looking for jobs, bringing their prejudices with them—prejudices upon which the local Nazis worked successfully."

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Governor Blames Reformers, Propagandists For Race Riots

JUN 25 1943

JUN 25 1943

In Telegram To PM Editor, Sparks Asserts If Let Alone Races Will Remain In Accord

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Zoot-minded propagandists and reformers who mislead, misquote and misinform, were blamed by Gov. Chauncey Sparks for race riots.

In a telegram to the managing editor of PM, New York daily newspaper, the Alabama governor who recently called out seven companies of state guardsmen following racial troubles in Mobile shipyards, declared:

JUN 25 1943

"Alabama is determined to use all available force to prevent riots. We have had none of any consequence and we would not have any but for influence over which we have no control.

"If self-seeking politicians, misguided philanthropists and outside influences would quit trying to regulate matters which are entirely local, we would have no future difficulty.

JUN 25 1943

"We are undertaking to forestall any new disorders by emphasizing among ourselves and to the outside world that all races in Alabama shall have justice, education and a square deal."

The governor pointed out that Alabama is doing more for Negro education today than ever before and promised that it would continue its activities in this field.

"The two races are part of the economy of the South," he declared, "and shall continue to remain so in peace and accord if we can be let alone and zoot-minded propagandists and reformers do not mislead, misguide and misinform."

The statement was made in response to a query from John P. Lewis, managing editor of the newspaper, who wrote the governor: "We know how concerned you must be about riots that have broken out all over the nation in recent weeks, destroying lives and property, creating disunity, and disrupting war production. Such outbreaks, if permitted to recur, could well cripple the home front. Since our state is among those in which rioting has occurred this newspaper would like to know what steps you have taken and what plans are under way to forestall new disorders."

JUN 25 1943

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

CIO Unions Blast Lynch Calls in Nassau Press

JUN 23 1943

By Ann Rivington

Lynch-inciting editorials in local newspapers are trying to foment race rioting in Long Island war industry areas.

The horror that broke loose in Detroit within the past few days could easily be provoked in New York City. This was amply proven by incidents last week in Corona, Queens, in which hundreds of Italian and Negro youth were involved in so-called "zoot-suit" street clashes.

Most recent of the lynch-inciting editorials appeared in the Nassau Daily Review-Star of June 19, just three days after the worst of the Corona street fighting.

LYNCH INCITEMENT

Urging "quick retribution for robbery, rapes and 'mugging'," this newspaper, in language worthy of a Hitler agent or a Klansman, ranted:

"Preferably we shall lock them up but if it is necessary to string them up in order to make our homes secure there will be no priorities on rope."

JUN 23 1943

An editorial in the Long Island Review-Star of April 13, also called for lynch rule.

"It is customary," this shameless piece of incitement stated, "in the North to think of lynch law in the South as a horrible thing, but it has had the one extenuating benefit of making the South the safest place in the world for white women."

Not content with printing this incitement once, the "Review-Star" recently reprinted the editorial after the arrest of six Negroes in Hempstead for what it called "mugging."

JUN 23 1943

KKK LANGUAGE

Describing the Negroes as "flashily dressed," the "Review-Star" went on that "While these boys apparently are not charged with rape, . . . it is only a question of time until this outrage would be added to their other offenses."

All this, mind you, before the six Negroes in question had so much as come up for trial, let alone been convicted of any crime whatever.

The lynch editorial in the Nassau Daily "Review-Star" was protested sharply in a letter to the editors by the Industrial Union Council, NIO, of Nassau-Sulfolk Counties.

"Your unwarranted attack upon the Negro population of our counties," the CIO letter stated, "demands an apology and retraction. The recklessness with which you endanger our war effort most certainly is not in keeping with the responsibility inherent in a Free Press."

Last night the Daily Worker interviewed several of the Negro boys who were involved in the Corona street fighting.

"It was that zoot-suit business we all read about in the **Daily News**, in Philadelphia and out in Los Angeles, that started it," one of the boys observed.

JUN 23 1943

Said another, "And **here in Corona, somebody's paying somebody to start that mess.**"

"Before this thing started," the boys explained, **"nobody ever bothered us. We used to play hookie from the same school with those same Italian boys that are against us now. They used to say, 'Hi there, buddy!' when they saw us on the street."**

Although clashes in Corona have died down since a large street fight last Wednesday night, when police drove Negroes off the streets into their houses throughout the Northern Boulevard neighborhood, the boys who talked with this reporter said, "We're afraid some guy's going to get beat up and it's going to start all over again."

JUN 23 1943

LEAFLET URGES UNITY

The Communost Party in Corona, distributed a leaflet Friday night calling for Negro and white unity to win the war, and an end to "zoot-suit" rioting.

This leaflet was so effective that on Saturday Police Captain Goldberg of the 110th Precinct Station, called at Communist Party headquarters.

Officers and detectives last week were apparently joining in the baiting of Negro youth, and had arrested at least 25 Negro boys and beaten several. On Friday, however, Captain Goldberg promised that Negro boys in the district would receive police protection.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ST. LOUIS COMBATS RACE RIOT RUMORS

'Clinic' to Run Down Reports Is Set Up as Frictions Rise to an Acute Point

JUL 11 1943

CITY'S SITUATION UNIQUE

Traditional Fusion Point of North and South, It Finds Old Customs Frayed

JUL 11 1943

By TURNER CATLEDGE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ST. LOUIS, July 10—A citizens' group of this city was trying today to devise a "rumor clinic" to run down and publish facts of the components of a veritable deluge of rumors which is aggravating the already delicate racial situation in this city.

The flood of rumors reached alarming proportions here during and soon after the race riots in Detroit, on June 21 and 22, and continues in only a slightly diminished degree. It takes the form of ananymous telephone calls, postcards and letters to the Mayor's office and to the police and the newspapers, to churches, civic bodies and to individuals. Many of the reports tell of atrocities to both whites and Negroes by members of the opposite race. Often the report of an "incident" is accompanied by a threat while a good number of them name the date and sometimes the place where a purported riot is to break out in St. Louis.

Most Evidence Is Slim

Newspapers and the police have endeavored to run down most of the rumors coming to them. Most often they have found them to be wholly false. Occasionally one is based on a shred of fact, and at other times an episode completely dissociated with the problem is given provocative raciol characteristics.

JUL 11 1943

The "grapevine" business has reached the stage, in the race situation here, both by continuance and volume, where many civic leaders think it must be dealt with fundamentally by some accepted public authority. They can think of no better remedy than exposure of rumor to the might of truth.

So far, neither the police, Federal agencies nor civic leaders and newspapers have found any definite evidence of an organized rumor "mill."

It is difficult, however, for them to imagine such a consistency of reports without some central effort behind it somewhere. They are adverse to believing that the will to mischief is as widespread as it would seem.

Bishop Leads Campaign

Establishment of the "rumor clinic" is only one of a number of projects taken up by a citizens committee, formed by Bishop William Scarlett, Protestant Episcopal head of Missouri, and president of the St. Louis Urban League, with a view to preventing the occurrence here of a riot like in Detroit, or such as happened just across the Mississippi River in East St. Louis during the first World War.

The Scarlett Committee is strictly a voluntary and wholly informal body, composed of business and professional people in both races, labor leaders, sociologists, officials and public-spirited citizens generally. It is composed of slightly more than twenty members and has been broken up into subcommittees to work closely with Governor Forrest Donnell, Mayor William D. Becker, police and Army officials in an effort to avert a racial emergency in the city. This particular committee is not primarily concerned with the longer range phases of the local race problem which officials are frank to say is more acute than most citizens like at first to admit.

Widespread Trouble Averted

So far wholesale trouble has been avoided here, although there were numerous instances of minor race clashes both before and after the Detroit fighting.

Observers feared "the day" had come a few days ago when apparently authentic reports came of preparation among the Negroes in a section of East St. Louis to meet a purported "invasion" by white hoodlums. But the provocative forces were scattered than, as in the other cases, and St. Louis nervously pursued its way.

Some others feel that the city has taken a long step toward avoiding trouble by admitting that it has a race problem. There is less of a disposition here to dodge the issues than one will find in Chicago, or even in Detroit when the soldiers were still standing guard to prevent a recurrence of trouble. As late as Thursday of this week, The St. Louis Post Dispatch admonished the citizens to

JUL 11 1943

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JUL 11 1943

61-1943

General

Labor 'Minute Men' to Combat Chicago Klan

The Worker
New York, N. Y. JUN 28 1943

CHICAGO, June 27.—An aroused Chicago tonight launched a fight-to-the-finish campaign against all fifth columnists and their conspiracy against America which reached its height in the insurrection in Detroit. Three hundred delegates to a special conference on racial relations declared "It won't happen in Chicago!!" and cheered Mayor Edward J. Kelly when he called on his hearers to expose the "subversive elements" in Chicago.

An aroused Chicago tonight launched a fight to the finish attack on all fifth columnists and their conspiracy against America declared. "What happened in Detroit won't happen here." Three hundred delegates to a special conference on Racial Problems cheered Mayor Edward J. Kelly when he called on his hearers to make war on the Ku Kluxers and other subversive elements.

"I'm here to ask you, both Negroes and white," declared the Mayor, who keynoted the conference, "to act as Minute Men; to go down the line preaching Americanism and exposing the Ku Kluxers and other subversive elements stirring up trouble. It doesn't make any difference what a man's color is in this city—white or black, he's going to get full protection of the city."

JUN 28 1943

The Special Conference on Racial Problems called by the Chicago Industrial Council and meeting in the chambers of the City Council, embraced many of the major organizations and groups of the city. Steps were taken through a continuation committee to enlist the support of all types of groups and organizations so that the conference would become the vigilant representative of all Chicago.

JUN 29 1943

WARNS OF COMPLACENCY

Mr. A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Chicago Urban League, warned against any complacency over race relations in Chicago so long as Negroes were forced to live in ghettoes and discriminated against in war plants.

Edward Strong, national secretary of the National Negro Congress described to the conference the brutal attacks in Detroit. "It was not a race riot in Detroit. It was an organized insurrection against the United States. It was the result of plotting and organization by a band of Ku Kluxers Coughlinites and other Axis agents. It was a manipulation of race prejudices to serve the purpose of Hitler," Mr. Strong said.

Martin Hayes Bickham, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Relations of the Chicago Church Federation, noted that organized religion must join with labor and all other groups to stamp out the basis of discrimination."

REFUSE TO HEAR NEGROES

The conference did not neglect to point out that in fighting this war for the four freedoms the Negro American must participate as a full citizen. Attorney Oscar Brown, president of the Chicago Chapter of the NAACP called sharp attention to the continued refusal of 250 industrial plants in Chicago to employ Negro workers. Discrimination in any form only deepened the prejudices which are used to foment trouble, he pointed out, urging steps to be taken to tackle these problems. And Earl B. Dickerson, former Alderman of the Second Ward and member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee showed that this war against the Axis was one calling the common people into full participation—and emphasizing that in the fighting of this war "democracy on the home front must emerge winner."

JUN 29 1943

Samuel Levin, president of the Illinois State Industrial Council demanded that "we show those who come among us claiming superiority of one race or people over another that they can't do that here. That's why we're fighting," he added, "to stop the Axis from oppressing other peoples and nations."

Fullerton Fulton, president of the Chicago Industrial Council and chairman of the conference, emphasized that the Detroit, Los Angeles and other such outrages were attempts to halt the invasion of Europe.

JUN 28 1943

Rabbi J. J. Weinstein of the KAM Temple sharply warned against permitting the reactionaries to make of any minority a scapegoat.

Lawson Urges Crack-Down On Traitors

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

John Howard Lawson, noted screen writer and playwright, yesterday told the **Daily Worker** "the only answer to the riots throughout the country lies in a real crack-down on the Fifth Column within the country."

JUN 30 1943

Mr. Lawson, who was the first American screen writer to take fascism for his subject (he wrote the screen-play for "Blockade" in 1937), is the author of the great current film on the merchant marine in wartime, "Action in the North Atlantic."

Mr. Lawson made the following comment yesterday on the race riots:

There is no doubt that these disgraceful exhibitions of Hitler racism are part of an organized Fifth Column plot to disrupt the American war effort. The outbreaks in Los Angeles, New York, Detroit, Beaumont, Texas and many other localities must be seen as part of a carefully planned and financed program of treason.

JUN 30 1943

There is an unfortunate tendency to view these events from a social worker angle, to see them only in terms of inequality, lack of opportunity, and consequent maladjustment of Negro and Mexican youth. We all know that the inequality exists and must be fought against. But this approach tends to obscure the role of organized treason in arranging these attacks on peaceful Negro and Mexican citizens, and to suggest that these citizens are less law-abiding than the rest of the population. That is untrue, and insults the magnificent patriotism and discipline shown by Mexican Americans and Negro Americans.

JUN 30 1943

The only answer to these riots lies in a real crack-down on the Fifth Column in this country. It is time to demand that proven traitors be tried and punished, and that every expression of Hitler racism be branded as a crime.

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negroes Welcome Judge Goldstein's Action on Riots

By Eugene Gordon

Judge Jonah J. Goldstein's directing the General Sessions Court grand juries Tuesday to investigate the causes of anti-Negro pogroms and other outbreaks against the Negro people is commended by leaders of the Negro community. The Judge gave his instructions to two General Sessions grand juries as they were impaneled for the July term. It was the first time in the recollection of the oldest court attache that such a thing has been done.

JUL 8 1943

His action evoked widespread comment, excerpts from which, given below, represent a typical cross section.

Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and editor of **The Crisis**, said that Judge Goldstein "should be commended for utilizing the grand jury and the courts" for a "more vigorous prosecution of the law" dealing with "insurrections."

"He is to be commended also for seeing beneath the surface causes of anti-Negro outbreaks and calling on the law-enforcement agencies to combat them," Mr. Wilkins said.

GREET GOLDSTEIN'S ACTION

Claudia Jones, member of the national committee of the Young Communist League, agreed with Mr. Wilkins, adding that Negro and white youth of the nation would welcome Judge Goldstein's suggestions for dealing with such outbreaks as occurred in Detroit. Miss Jones said:

"Thorough investigation by the grand jury is needed to unearth the fifth-column-Klan insurrection against the anti-fascist war and the Negro people. Such steps as those advocated by Judge Goldstein should be taken by every community in the United States where Negro and white people are striving to work together for the defeat of fascism."

JUL 8 1943

Julius Thomas, an official of the National Urban League, said he had just returned from a tour of investigation in Detroit. Judge Goldstein, he believes, "has hit upon a sane and practical method" of preventing anti-Negro outbreaks and feels that if such action had been taken in the automobile - manufacturing city the terrible pogroms there might have been prevented.

"Judge Goldstein's decision to have the Grand Jury investigate the underlying causes of anti-Negro outbreaks comes at a time when the morale among oppressed groups might be lowered still more by the least untoward action," Lyndon Henry, business agent of Local 88, Fancy Fur Dyers' Union, CIO, told the Daily Worker. "Goldstein's action comes at the opportune moment—in time to prevent further loss of faith in the processes of democracy."

JUL 8 1943

FOR VICTORY MORALE

Morale is absolutely essential to victory, Mr. Henry said, and for the Negro people of New York to know that a body of citizens legally constituted to investigate discrimination against them will do much to boost their morale.

Edward Strong, national secretary of the National Negro Congress thought the judge's instructions to the Grand Juries to be "a real contribution to national unity and an anti-fascist victory."

"In taking this position Judge Goldstein acts in the best tradition of the country," Mr. Strong declared. "He sets an example which state and federal officials everywhere might profitably follow."

Judge Goldstein's statement to the Grand Jury "reflects the feeling of the Negro and white citizens of New York," said Benjamin J. Davis, chairman of the New York County and head of the Upper Harlem Communist Party.

JUL 8 1943

It is clear, Davis said, that the origin of violence against the Negro "is not in thin air out of nowhere" but that it is "definitely organized and incited by conscious pro-Hitler elements for the purpose of disrupting the anti-fascist war and beating down the Negro's demand for free and equal participation in that war."

U. S. to Probe Racial Crisis

PM's
New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON, June 22.—Aroused by the new outbreak of race warfare in Detroit and sporadic upheavals in other places, be planned to expose the sources of the race rioting. It is generally believed that FBI agents are already making unofficial investigations.

JUL 8 1943

Justice Dept. officials were expected to meet tailed information from reports of the Detroit clash. today to map action to end the crisis. General Francis Biddle, Rotnem and Wendell Burge were expected to confer on the fake rumors such as the apparently phony unit of the Department, said last night that issues which provoked the Detroit shootings.

Rotnem said the Department was giving "very serious consideration" to the possibility of ordering a full-fledged FBI probe to

It was understood that next steps would be announced today after receipt of more detailed information from the scene. Attorney General Francis Biddle, Rotnem and Wendell Burge were expected to confer on the fake rumors such as the apparently phony unit of the Department, said last night that issues which provoked the Detroit shootings.

One factor of significance to Government officials is that nearly all of the outbreaks throughout the day and the some dozen the day before occurred in areas where Negro and white people are striving together for the defeat of fascism.

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tale that a white woman was raped by a Negro in Beaumont, Tex.

This seems to be the general pattern leading to open hostilities, it was said.

As a result, belief is mounting in Government circles that the present race violence in vital areas is the product of a planned campaign by foes of the war effort rather than isolated demonstrations of anti-Negro feeling.

The rioting in Detroit is regarded as of special significance in view of the past battles at the Sojourner Truth housing projects and the open revival of pro-fascist groups in that region.

JUN 27 1943

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

HOLD THE NEGRO DOWN

JUL 16 1943

(By Dean Gordon B. Hancock for ANP)

The riotous outbreaks here and there about the country are sorry, sordid, and sickening events. They easily constitute one of the ugliest developments in modern history. Even more important than the cursed events themselves are their underlying motivations. And unless the situation is taken in hand by the states and localities themselves or by federal authorities, we are in for some deplorable developments.

These outbreaks are not isolated happenings resulting from isolated motives arising in isolated communities. They are rather closely connected incidents directly related to a common cause of rebuffing the Negro in his attempts to better his condition. The HND (Hold Negro Down) elements in this country are on the offensive, and even the war efforts are being subordinated to its studied designs. The resurgence of the anti Negro politician of the south is one of the manifestations of the spirit and determination of the HND's of America. Angered because the Negro wants to enjoy some of the freedom he is fighting to guarantee to other racial and national groups, these HND's are now throwing democracy, Christianity and God to the winds in their efforts to subjugate the Negro.

It is for this nation to say whether its war effort and its moral standing are to be subordinated to the designing ends of the HND's. It is just as well for the country to know that the threat is not alone against the future of the Negro, but against the sovereignty of the nation—and its surival. The Negro cannot be indefinitely subjugated without brutalizing effects upon the mind and morals of the nation and world. It is no more creditable for the HND's to massacre defenseless Negroes than for the Germans to annihilate defenseless Jews.

While it is a popular thing to charge everything to axis propaganda it may not be amiss for us to consider the possibilities that we have elements in this country just as capable of fomenting these outbreaks as ever the axis have. What is more, these elements were active long before the axis was dreamed of.

The ugly spectacle of riotous outbreaks must be laid at the door of the HND's, whose major premise is un-Christian and undemocratic and un-American. Their policies are jeopardizing the moral standing of the nation abroad and endangering our chances of leadership in the post war world. A lawless nation may be popular because of the strength of its exchequer; but it will not be respected; and such respect as it will enjoy in the comity of the nations will be of the "dollar down" type.

JUL 16 1943

It is just as well for this country to remember that the present threat is not so much against the Negro as against the nation itself. AMERICA MUST SAVE THE NEGRO OR ITSELF BE LOST! The thing that is producing riots against Negroes in ths country is far more dangerous than that which is hampering our war program through strikes. Both are giving great comfort to the enemy. Both are happening here.

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch
August 3, 1943

Dixie's Fault, of Course

WELL Virginians, you may not have heard it before, but you and other white Southerners are largely to blame for the bloody disorders in Harlem over the week end. How can there be any doubt of it? WALTER WHITE, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, says its true.

It was this same WALTER WHITE who declared that "Southern white crackers" who had moved to Detroit in the past 15 months, brought on the recent Detroit race riot. Yet DR. C. F. RAMSEY, director of the Michigan Department of Social Welfare, found that not one of the nearly 500 persons arrested had been in Detroit less than five years. Only last Saturday police announced that three youths arrested in Detroit for the "coldblooded murder" of a Negro in the riot had confessed. These "Southern white crackers" were named ALDO TRANI, ARMENDO MASTANUONO and ANTHONY SARACENO.

And now the head of the NAACP proclaims that the sanguinary and tragic outburst in Harlem, which took six or more lives and caused millions of dollars worth of damage, grew out of the "mistreatment of Negro soldiers, particularly in the South." It seems that this mistreatment "is a terribly sore point with Negroes." Consequently, when a New York policeman (he must have been a "Southern white cracker"), arrested a colored soldier in a Harlem hotel which had been raided on a charge of being a house of prostitution, and the soldier hit the cop in the head with his own nightstick and ran, the policeman fired, striking the Negro in the shoulder.

That, naturally enough, began the Dixie-instigated hoodlumism. Negro youths roved all over Harlem looting stores, most of them owned and operated by Negroes. These youths also engaged in wholesale fist fights with one another and stabbed one another with knives razors and other handy weapons. You can readily see why. Colored soldiers are not treated as they should be in the South. Therefore Negro hoodlums in Harlem decided to carve one another up, to loot and wreck stores operated by members of their own race, and to attack policemen (all of whom come from Mississippi, as is well known).

Such is the reasoning to which we apparently are being treated by WALTER WHITE, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Is there any longer any mystery concerning the reasons why most leaders of the Negro race in the South prefer to look for guidance elsewhere? Such fantastic nonsense and irrational bitterness as emanates nowadays from this and other spokesmen for the NAACP serves only to stir up antagonism between the races in the South.

Those Southern whites who are genuinely anxious to achieve for the colored people of this section those rightful opportunities which have been denied them, and those Southern Negroes who realize that their friends among the Southern whites are the only people who can make such opportunities a permanent reality, will know how much weight to give to the NAACP's future pronouncements. Race riots are a disgrace to the nation, whether they occur in Beaumont or Harlem. They can best be prevented by the promotion of fair treatment for the Negroes and better understanding. Preposterous efforts to blame the South for all the disorders and riots that occur in the North must augment, rather than diminish, the difficulties which lie in the way of interracial progress.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Whitewash Rejected

JUN 30 1943

AMERICA has not accepted the whitewash of the fascist inciters of the Detroit riots, administered by the Michigan governor's commission.

Rabbis in their sermons, lawyers meeting in a National Lawyers Guild conference, prominent artists in a letter to the President, and the Mayors of New York and Chicago challenged that whitewash.

They all insist that the riots against the Negro people are instigated by subversive, fifth column elements whose purpose is the disruption of our war effort.

Anyone in the least familiar with the work of the fifth column who does not want to evade the issue must insist.

JUN 30 1943

The fifth column that inspired the Detroit attacks upon the Negro people is active everywhere to the same end. It can be counteracted and defeated only if all patriotic elements in American life remain on their toes.

What's needed everywhere is community conferences and mass meetings of all patriotic groups who will take action to fight against all signs of anti-Negro or anti-Semitic activity or agitation, and will acquaint the citizenry with the real meaning of such activity.

JUN 30 1943

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

Springfield Nipped 'Riot' Peril in Bud

JUN 29 1943

(Special to the Daily Worker)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., June 28.—In spite of the efforts of certain police officials and newspapers to whip up a lynching bee spirit, quick action by labor and civic leaders has halted what threatened to reproduce on a minor scale the shame of Detroit in this city.

Monday night, June 21, there were two fights between soldiers and Negro youths. In one of these all of the participants fled before the police arrived; in the other it was established that a group of soldiers from Westover field made insulting remarks to a group of Negro youth with the result that a fight involving 20 or 30 people developed.

Tuesday morning the Springfield Union carried large headlines "Negroes attack Soldiers Here" and in the story that followed carried a statement requested from a Springfield police official that "if Negro youths are looking for trouble here they will find it on the end of swinging night-sticks and in the

JUN 29 1943

"Undue publicity has been given a so-called local situation in relation to troubles existing in Detroit. It is emphatically denied that any responsible police official warned Negro gangs that they would feel the end of swinging nightsticks, all religions and creeds. That

Springfield is fortunate in its tolerant and brotherly relations amongst

UNION ACTIVITY

The Van Norman Machine Tool Company local of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers CIO, issued a statement warned against the 5th Column dangers of racial hatred and demned the police attitude as "irresponsible act of prejudice."

A group of civic leaders including Lawyer Alford Tavernierh, President of the Springfield Chapter of the NAACP, Rev. Moore, Negro minister, Mrs. Katharyne Jones, social worker, and Mrs. Iris Lewin representng the UE conferred with Mayor Anderson and Police Chief Gallagher Tuesday afternoon on the situation.

From this conference issued the following statement:

7,000 in Harlem Gird Against Riots

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

JUL 12 1943

Seven thousand Negro and white persons yesterday at the Golden Gate Ballroom duplicated on a smaller scale the triumphant Negro Freedom Rally in Madison Square Garden on June 7.

The purpose of the rally which jammed Harlem's largest auditorium was to bring back reports of a delegation elected to go to Washington from the Madison Square Garden meeting and of a delegation which went to investigate the recent anti-Negro outbreaks in Detroit.

JUL 12 1943

Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee of the armed forces and civilians, went to the aid of Negroes attacked by fascist-minded hoodlums in Detroit. Powell condemned by name the March of Washington Committee for barring white persons from its membership at its recent convention in Detroit.

JUL 12 1943

He called that action "a shameful backward step," because it made it more difficult for the Negro people, fighting discrimination, to achieve their aim.

Hundreds of white persons were in the audience and a large number participated in Langston Hughes' dramatic spectacle "For This We Fight," which followed.

Other speakers included Harry Braverman, Los Angeles, who reported on the anti - Mexican and anti-Negro outbreaks there; Claudia Jones, member of the National Committee, Young Communist League; Channing Tobias, of the national board, YMCA; Roger Straughn, president of the Harlem Labor Union. Assemblyman Hulan Jack was chairman.

Committee, and City Councilman Adam Clayton Powell, made the principal reports.

A feature of the rally was a pledge by the 7,000 persons, standing, with right hands raised and speaking as in one voice, to fight in the home front for unity behind the President against fascism.

JUL 12 1943

Both Collins and Powell cite acts to prove that the Detroit outreaks were not "race riots" bu garized pogroms against the Ne people. Collins showed tha any white persons, both member

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

New Deal Wi h Blocking Probe

A charge that "New Deal obstructionists" are blocking the proposed senatorial investigation into the recent wave of race riots in this country was made last week by Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council.

Specifically naming Senator Scott W. Lucas, Democrat, of Illinois, Chairman of the Senate Audit Committee, Mr. Brown declared that his failure to act favorably on a request for $25,000 to conduct the probe "was probably dictated by the New Deal high command whose record is consistently anti-Negro in action."

"Senator Lucas had had about three months for consideration of this important matter and still no indication as to when a decision may be expected," Mr. Brown said, "In the meantime national racial tensions still exist, threatening morale on the home front at a time when the national crisis demands interracial harmony."

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa
LOOKING FOR CAUSES

JUL 8 1943

The officials of the president's committee on fair employment practice have been making an investigation in an effort to determine whether recent race riots in America have been Axis-inspired and if not, then what the causes and remedies are.

The report released Wednesday says that no evidence was found showing that these clashes were Axis-inspired, but that "home-grown bigotry appears responsible."

JUL 8 1943

The Bystander takes the position that there is no essential difference between Hitlerism and its doctrine of race superiority and the doctrine of white supremacy in this country.

Both have for their objectives either the destruction or stifling of minority groups. That being true, Hitler does not need to inspire or finance anything in this country. It is done for him by such groups as the Ku Klux Klan, the Christian front and other facists groups which we have allowed to flourish under the guise of freedom.

The report goes on to say that these riots have been touched off, in many cases, by trivial fights and other incidents, word of which is passed on by rumors, magnified and untrue in many instances. Of course, this has been true all along. The thing that must be dealt with is the frame of mind of the people from day to day.

JUL 8 1943

We cannot too often restate the fact that if officials in high places would admonish the people to discard their prejudices and treat every man fairly and squarely on the basis of his individual merit, if they had the courage to tell the people that segregation and discrimination against the Negro were contrary to the ideals for which we are supposed to stand and for which we are supposed to be fighting, there would be far less tension between races than we are having today.

FDR Asked to Stop Riots Against Minority Groups

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

JUL 8 1943

Calling upon the President to "put down with a firm hand" the organized campaign of violence which is being carried on "against Negroes . . . the Mexican population, against the Jewish people, other minority groups and against organized labor in industrial centers" a national delegation of trade union leaders from the CIO and AFL and leaders of Negro and Jewish organizations called together by the Negro Labor Victory Committee, met with Marvin McIntyre, representing President Roosevelt; Victor Rothem, representing Attorney General Francis Biddle; Edward McGrath, represnting Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, and Admiral Fisher and Assistant Secretary of Navy Bard.

Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, spokesman for the delegation which met with Mr. McIntyre, urged him to impress upon the President the demand of the organized workers represented in the delegation that the Ku Klux Klan and similar fascist organizations be at once outlawed and their leaders apprehended.

JUL 3 1943

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Committee Issues 10-Point Program to Prevent Riots

NEW YORK CITY.—(ANP)—A 10-point platform of recommendations, designed to prevent other disturbances such as the Harlem race riot, was released Sunday by the Citizens' Committee on Better Race Relations.

The committee contends that the riot which left five dead, several hundred injured and estimated property damage of $5,000,000 was brought on by the ever-present problems of isolation, segregation and discrimination facing the colored people everywhere in the country.

Social Explosion

Committee members termed the disturbance a "social explosion," believed that the Harlem riot will make it possible for colored leaders to reach the ear of federal, state and city officials, to get these officials to listen to, and put into effect, recommendations which the leaders and community agencies have been attempting to get action on for years.

The 10 recommendations are the following:

1. That the mayor call upon the President to issue a national proclamation abolishing segregation, discrimination and jim crowism in the armed forces and in the government everywhere:
2. That the President issue an order calling on the Red Cross to discontinue its jim crow blood bank forthwith;
3. That the mayor appoint two colored persons, one as a member of the board of education, the other to serve on the executive administration staff of the board of education;
4. That the mayor appoint a colored person as one of his ranking secretaries.
5. That the mayor appoint a colored deputy police commissioner.
6. That the mayor confer with the merchants of Harlem, the markets department and the OPA on correcting the wide differentials existing in quality and quantity of foodstuffs and other commodities sold in Harlem.
7. That the mayor appoint a colored person to the administration staff of the city war council to co-ordinate the civilian defense activities of the council in relaton to colored participation.
8. That the mayor appoint a commission on race relations consisting of representatives of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities, and that this commission be empowered to accept and consider recommendations to better race relations in the city.
9. That the number of playstreets and playgrounds to increased in Harlem.
10. That the city acquire buildings in Harlem for indoor musical concerts, skating rinks, dancing and other recreational activities.

Navy Paper Here Blames Whites For Race Clashes

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

JUL 10 1943

A remarkable editorial in "The Navy Breeze," newspaper of the U. S. Navy Air Technical Training Station here in Chicago this week places "the burden of responsibility for race riots" on whites.

The newspaper published at the center at 87th street and Anthony avenue, urges all white sailors to "cut out inflammatory talk in barracks and wardrooms" to help prevent any outbreaks.

The editorial was surprising since it follows by only a little more than a week the [illegible] given to men in the barracks by commanding officers which virtually were an incitement for attack on Negroes.

From unquestionably reliable sources, the Defender learned that Commander Browder in charge of Vocational school, told his fellow officers on the day of the Detroit riots to instruct their men that they were not to allow any insult to their uniforms. The sailors were told to stand up against any South Side civilians and they would be supported by full riot squads in case of trouble.

It was learned several of the Southerners armed themselves with bowie knives and gleefully told their mates, "This is just what we've been waiting for."

But a far cry from this attitude is the "Navy Breeze" editorial which declares:

"The world of the Four Freedoms seemed pretty far away from Detroit and Los Angeles last week. Out-Nazi-ing the Nazis is no way to indicate that we are either incapable of or interested in creating a decent world for people to live in.

"If this is a war for Anglo-Saxon 100 per cent Americans, then we are wasting a lot of time. A telegram to Hitler and Tojo would end the war tomorrow on terms [illegible]

JUL 10 1943

million people) and India (330 million people) and aroused native [illegible] assumed by the whites. For a 150 other years we have denied the Negroes [illegible] must be make most of the rights which we [illegible] have taken for granted. [illegible] mistakes made by politically and economically [illegible] Negroes, enlarging their chances [illegible] education and personal [illegible]

beat them, we only stimulate [illegible] ment, we shall be able progressive- [illegible] ly to abolish the dynamite of racial strife.

"Keeping them in 'their place' by [illegible] only of the first laws of psychology is [illegible] the mother of [illegible]

OPINION

PM
New York, N. Y.

Keep Death From New York

Death struck in Detroit this week. Let us not allow it to strike in New York next.

Ordinarily a newspaper's job is to write about events as they occur, and not to prevent them. But the facts have occurred in such fateful succession, they have struck so lethally at the great centers of Negro population, they have had so common a pattern, that the people of New York will be wise to make certain that this city will not be next.

In fact, for intelligent newspapers in any one of a dozen big centers of Negro population in the Nation, **the common pattern of the riots is itself the important event for them to note.**

The Negroes in New York know this as well as anyone. One of the big facts that we must reckon with is the impact these events have made on them. They have few illusions about the civilization they live in. They are not looking for trouble. But as far as I have been able to gather, they are not going to cringe if trouble goes looking for them.

I don't believe that there is any appreciable group of whites in New York who are looking for trouble either. One can count, on the whole, on the good-will of the people of New York. They don't want New York production stopped. They don't want New York streets to be stained with blood nor scarred with arson as in Detroit, Beaumont, Mobile.

But memories are short, as tempers are. We must keep fresh in men's minds the dangers of loose talk and hot action. We must keep them aware of the presence of those whom Mayor La Guardia aptly calls "snakes," ready to spread destruction. We must show them how to extract the fangs from these snakes.

The people of New York cannot learn all this from silence. The time has gone by when the hush-hush treatment seemed adequate for the volcanic tensions of racist hatred. Whites and blacks alike must know what menaces the city as a whole, and how to meet the menace. This means clear speaking in the newspapers and on the radio. And it means vigorous preventive action by the City's officials and leading citizens.

Mayor La Guardia has issued a statement to the Negroes through the *Amsterdam News*, urging them to be calm and assuring them of protection. But he needs to talk about this to the city as a whole. And he needs to understand that in a situation like this, the Mayor cannot do everything himself. He has too many other things to do as well.

The City needs a representative and vigorous committee of whites and Negroes, which will concentrate on this problem and nothing else, which will sit in continuous session when necessary, and which will mobilize all the resources in the City for influencing opinion. I don't mean a committee of stuffed shirts and big names, but a working committee made up both of City officials and ordinary citizens.

Their job will be to help the Negro in instances of job discrimination, to protect him against possible injustices and inequalities of the law, to give him the crucial sense that he is not alone. Their job will also be to help educate the whites about the Negro's rights and his creative place in our society. Their job will be, finally, to study the experience of other cities in achieving justice and avoiding violence.

We regard Mayor La Guardia as one of the most dynamic City executives in the Nation. We believe that he means to keep order, and that if any one man can do it, he can. But we believe also that this racist violence that is sweeping the country is not merely overnight stuff. It is like a continuing siege, and it must be met by active mobilization of every resource of the community for that single purpose.

This means action by the Mayor. But it also means action by the newspapers. Let them fulfill the function on which they pride themselves—of forming and informing opinion—by taking the lead in the campaign against possible violence. Let them reveal starkly the pattern from which violence crops up. Let them call upon the people of New York to pledge themselves actively to the fight against rumors and incitements.

This means also action by the radio stations in the local area. They do a good job in hammering into the minds of people incessantly the need for buying War Bonds, for Civilian Defense volunteers, for a dozen different war causes. Well, here is a war cause which is today of transcending importance. The radio people know the art and power of slogans. Let them harness this art and power to their city's welfare.

There is a similar job to be done by trade unions and management, by churches and schools, by clubs and forums. Here is a specific instance in which the local community can show that democracy works. Only it must be vigorous and concerted action, and not criss-crossed confusion. And it must be clear and courageous talk, and not hush-hush.

These are the things that can be done by New York officials and by powerful groups. But the ordinary citizen can also do something. He can enroll as a volunteer to fight against incitements and provocations to racist war. To that end we append below a pledge which the ordinary New Yorker can fill out and send to the Mayor.

We ask you to do this. And some day you will be able to say: "There was a time when my city was in great danger—not of air attack by a known enemy, but of inner attack by an unknown one. There was a time when racist war was in the air. I fought rumors. I spread an understanding between white and Negro. I kept my head and helped others to keep theirs. And we won."

—MAX LERNER

The immediate program suggested here is not, of course, the answer to the Negro problem, but is a course of action aimed at meeting the present emergency. Tomorrow we will discuss the racial question and its answers on the broad scale on which it must be faced if Democracy is to be made to work for all our people.—ED

Pursuit Of Democracy

Series of Riots Show Need for Courageous Action By Roosevelt

Pittsburgh Pa. Courier

BY MARJORIE McKENZIE

NEGRO Americans have been surprised and shocked by the zoot suit riots in Los Angeles, since through them many of us have learned for the first time of the intensity of racial feeling against Mexican citizens and residents in certain sections of the country. We are inclined to think of ourselves as the exclusive victims of race hate in America.



Miss McKenzie

barring occasional campaigns against "the yellow peril." Many Mexicans are mixed-bloods of various combinations of Indian, Negro and Spanish ancestry, but some are pure-blooded Latin Caucasians. Apparently by a process of identification they are oppressed also.

If any of us thought for a moment that this new bait for the exuberant sailors of Secretary Knox' Navy would provide us with a brief respite from violence, we were sadly in error. All over the country, a series of riots and strikes growing out of racial conflict were in progress involving soldiers, civilians and war workers, children and adults, black and white.

RIOTS IN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH

In Newark, N. J., a 15-year-old Negro boy was shot and killed by a gang of white youths, in the wake of interracial brawls that had occurred at a track meet in the city stadium. The incident was followed by wholesale arrests of Negroes, not whites. Incidentally, New Jersey has a civil rights' law and a committee with subpoena power currently investigating discriminatory employment practices.

FARTHER down the Coast, the "powder keg" at Camp Stewart, Georgia, blew up and one white MP was killed and four others wounded by Negro troops, whose resentment over segregation and oppression had reached a breaking point.

KU KLUX AT WORK

Over in Mississippi, Governor Paul B. Johnson requested the War department to remove the 364th Infantry North, following its threat to "clean Mississippi out" after a Negro soldier had been killed by a local sheriff.

IN DETROIT, 22,500 white war workers went on a wildcat strike at the Packard Motor company, when Negroes were upgraded to assembly lines. It was generally understood that the threatened race riot was inspired by the Ku Klux Klan.

War workers in Brooklyn, N. Y., walked out of the Acme Backing corporation when one Negro was assigned to a key department, but returned to work in a day after their leaders were fired and a stern warning was issued to them.

URGES FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Here were at least six separate incidents, occurring in widely divergent areas. In four, bloodshed and death resulted. As Carey McWilliams, author of the recently published "Brothers Under The Skin," wrote in "PM" regarding the West Coast rioting, the need for federal intervention is clear. His advice and prediction, documented by events of the week, were stated thus:

"The Administration should proceed without a moment's delay, to formulate a comprehensive policy, to implement that policy, and to set up agencies that can be actively and continuously concerned with precisely this type of problem. If something of this kind is not done, you can expect more trouble in Los Angeles and, for that matter, all over the Nation."

MR. McWILLIAMS advocates legislation similar to the

minded sailors on the loose in Los Angeles and Secretary Stimson ought to take steps to see that fewer soldiers lose their lives on American soil.

IT CAN be done and if either of these gentlemen is reluctant, they have a Commander-in-Chief, whose powers of persuasion are pragmatic legion. It is high time for him to be made and make it clear that there is no open problem are season, winter or summer, for killration of theing Negroes and Mexicans, in spite of the quaint custom of the sons All of which Knox ought and daughters of the South to his Fascist hunt them all year long.

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court found unconstitutional in accomplish anything so noble. If
1870. While I agree with him that is conceivable that a
this is a desirable goal, we can Congress, under the
scarcely hope that the present Wendell Willkie, might
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filibustered one poll tax bill and
threatens another, which cannot

civil rights act that the Supreme pass anti-lynching legislation, will

61-1943

POLITICAL PARTIES BLAMED FOR RIOTS

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

By JAMES EDMUND BOYACK
(Staff Correspondent)



NEW YORK, July 29—Wendell L. Willkie, aspirant for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1944, last week declared war on the traditional Solid South, thus becoming the first since Civil War days to openly flout the Dixie vote. Today, "The Man from Indiana" is being hailed as the Abraham Lincoln of the 20th Century.

Willkie's ultimatum was delivered during a history-making program over the Columbia Broadcasting System when he unqualifiedly endorsed Lincoln's belief that "the United States of America cannot exist half slave and half free." He demanded equal rights for every colored citizen now.

JUL 31 1943

UNPRECEDENTED RADIO BROADCAST

His 1943 Emancipation Proclamation was delivered during a radio broadcast, which in itself was unprecedented. Columbia addressed "An Open Letter to the American People," exposing the dangers of racial hatred in this country. It was heard from 7 to 7:30 p.m. E.W.T., with a rebroadcast to the West from 9 to 9 p.m., E.W.T.

Wendell L. Willkie personally voiced the postscript to the letter. It has already made the headlines of history.

The unparalleled step by Columbia and its president, William S. Paley, took the form of documentary drama, prompted by the horrors of the Detroit race riots in June. It was written and produced by Columbia's distinguished William N. Robson.

Starring in the mixed cast were a trio of nationally-known Negro actors—Richard Huey, Juano Hernandez and Eric Burroughs.

TURN TO PAGE 24, FULL PAGE OF PICTURES

Mr. Willkie's declaration on the race issue accrued added significance in view of the circumstances surrounding it.

It is widely known that literally hundreds of nationally-known organizations have communicated their indignation to the White House, following the series of race riots which beset the country last month, with a plea that President Roosevelt voice his disapproval over the radio. The President has remained silent.

Thomas Dewey, Republican Governor of New York, whom several political polls place in the forefront of Republican Presidential possibilities, has consistently refused to make any statement to the Negro or daily press on the Detroit riots.

NEGROES ENTITLED TO SAME RIGHTS

Mr. Willkie's Bill of Rights follows in part:

"One-tenth of the people of this country belong to the Negro race. In the spirit in which our independence was gained, and our Republic established, there are certain things these Negro citizens are entitled to—not as a matter of patronage or tolerance, but as a matter of right.

1. "They are entitled to protection under the law when their safety demands it, and to prompt and vigorous enforcement of the law.

2. "It is their right that there shall be no discrimination against them in the administration of the law—in Federal, State or local governments.

3. "They are entitled to the same opportunity to acquire an education—an education of the same quality—as that given to other citizens.

4. "They should receive the same per capita expenditure of public monies for health and hospitalization as is allotted to other citizens.

5. "They have a right—as has every citizen—to the elimination of all arbitrary restrictions on voting, through taxation, or otherwise.

6. "Their right to work must equal that of any citizen, and their reward should be the same as the reward of any other citizen for the same job.

7. "Their economic opportunity should not be limited by their color.

8. "And last, they should have the rights of every citizen to fight for his country in any branch of her armed services.

"These are merely the rights that the Negro of our communities share with every other citizen. We must see to it that he gets them.

RAPS BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES

"But in addition to his rights," Mr. Willkie continued, "are certain human needs which he also shares with his fellow citizens. And they too must be cared for. The most pressing today—for black and white—is adequate and decent housing. If this cannot be secured through the operation of our private economy, it is an obligation that must be undertaken by the Government.

"There is one thing further which seems to me to have a real bearing on the welfare of our Negro citizens. It concerns the Negro's political status.

"Our two major political parties have their separate ways of approaching the Negro vote. One has a tendency to ask the Negro for his vote as recompense for an act of simple justice done 80 years ago. The other retains political power by, in effect, depriving the Negro of his right to vote in one part of the country, while seeking his vote in another, on the plea of great friendship for his race.

MUST ELIMINATE FASCISTS AT HOME, TOO

"Both attitudes must be changed. One party cannot go on feeling that it has no further obligation to the Negro citizen because Lincoln freed the slave. And the other is not entitled to power if it sanctions and practices one set of principles in Atlanta, and another in Harlem.

"Our whole purpose today is, with our Allies, to defeat Fascism. But all the forces of Fascism are not with our enemies.

"Fascism is an attitude of mind . . . an attitude which causes men to seek to rule others by economic, military or political force, or through prejudice. Such an attitude within our own borders is as serious a threat to freedom as is the attack without. The desire to deprive some of our citizens of their rights—economic, civic, or political, has the same basic motivation that actuates the Fascist mind when it seeks to dominate whole peoples and nations.

"It is essential that we eliminate it at home, as well as abroad.

"This is a time for serious thought and sober words. For the situation which flared so tragically in Detroit has its counterpart in many American cities. Such instances of mob madness cannot be treated as single cases, because they are profound in their effect in this country, and lasting in their impression throughout the world."

DIXIE STATIONS TURNED DOWN PROGRAM

So radical was the departure from established radio network policy by the Columbia Broadcasting System, in placing the race problem squarely and impellingly before the American people, that a private preview over private wires was arranged for station managers of the network throughout the nation. Because of its unique character, it is believed to have been turned down flat by Southern stations.

On the other hand, advance announcement to radio editors brought so many telephone calls from newspaper editors for copies of the script, that Columbia's telephone facilities were swamped. It is believed that the program received more newspaper publicity than any since radio's inception.

Because of widespread public interest, Columbia is offering a recording of the broadcast free of charge to any radio station, regardless of network affiliation.

DRAMATIZED HOUSING NEEDS

Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

The "Open Letter" showed, in dramatic form, the causes and effects of race hatred, and the lack of race solidarity in some American centers. Factors touched upon in connection with the Detroit riots included the recruiting of Southern and Negro labor, in three years, brought [illegible] persons to that city.

Other elements dramatized were the inadequate housing, overtaxed transportation and recreation centers, and the practice of enforcing discriminatory labor rules, imposing hardships and limitations on racial groups, in violation of their Constitutional rights.

The program was a crushing blow at the Ku Klux Klan, the Bund-inspired National Workers' league, and other white-shirt organizations which are charged with spreading and inciting racial hatred in war production centers.

Material for the broadcast was compiled from eyewitness accounts of the Detroit riots, from Government documents, and from reports of trained special investigators.

The program replaced "The Man Behind the Gun," one of the network's most important programs in aid of the war effort.

JUL 31 1943

PUBLIC REACTION BEING WATCHED

Race Hatred is breeding and festering in a score of crowded war centers. And so, tonight, we ask you happened in Detroit, because we believe that no sensible, American will allow it to happen here at home, fighting against all over the world."

its Negro stars, it pulled no punches.

Ho executives of other networks are closely following to the first radio broadcast sponsored by a nation- organization which dared to tell all Americans that dis- prejudice must stop!

THE RIOTING

Boston, Mass.—During the past few weeks violent disorders among ve occurred in widely scattered sections of the country. All the disturbances have been racial attacks cans and colored Americans and have spread to coast in a wave of rioting. To many persons significant that the outbreaks have usually or near camps where colored soldiers are stationed or in those communities engaged extensively in war production.

In a warning telegram to President Roose-

—Guardian

JUN 26 1943

POINTS OUT THREATENED DANGERS

Extracts from comments by its announcer and narrator follow:

"'The Man Behind the Gun,' regularly heard at this time, has been cancelled this evening so that you may hear 'An Open Letter to decent, law-abiding Americans of every color and creed from the Columbia Broadcasting System, with a postscript by Wendell L. Willkie.

"Dear Fellow Americans: What you are about to hear may anger you. What you are about to hear may sound incredible to you. You may doubt that such things can happen today in a supposedly United Nation. But we assure you that everything you are about to hear is true. And so, we ask you to spend 30 minutes with us, facing quietly, without passion or prejudice, a danger that threatens us all . . . a danger so great that if it is not met and conquered now, even though we win this war, we shall be defeated in victory, and

JUL 31 1943

velt a group of nationally prominent citizens this week called for an investigation by the Department of Justice into the promotion of the conflicts. The telegram read:

"All signs point to carefully organized subversive activity in developing racial conflict in war industry centers. Mobile, Beaumont and Detroit can be only the start of disastrous conflicts throughout the counry that will disrupt war production and severely depress morale of the American people. We call upon you as Commander-in-Chief of the nation to make an immediate appeal to American people by radio and press warning against dangers of present trends and calling for unity on the home front as well as in battle areas. We call upon the Department of Justice to investigate the sources of these disorders and if subversive activity is discovered to deal with the leaders as effectively as with other agents of the Axis powers."

The message bore the signatures of Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the National Urban Lague; Dr. Channing H. Tobias, National Council of the Y. M. C. A.; Edwin R. Embree, President, Julius Rosenwald Fund; Willard S. Townsend, International President, United Transport Service Employees of America; Dr. John W. Davis, President, West Virginia State College; Dr. Charlest S. Johnson, Department of Sociology, Fisk University; Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick, President, Rockefeller Foundation; John Sengstacke, President, Newspaper Publishers Association; John Green, President, International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America; R. J. Thomas, President, United Automobile Workers of America; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President, National Council of Colored Women; and Bishop Francis J. McConnell.

Many other enlightened citizens are convinced that Axis influence is active in promoting the racial upheavals, although the FBI after investigation finds no basis for accepting that view. We are constantly warned against the possible activities of Axis agents and Axis sympathizers. If they are operating here and escaping detection it is because our detective agencies are no match for Nazi cunning.

Everybody knows that the technique of riot inciting is quite simple. Mobs can be quickly collected in a Southern community to shoot, hang or roast somebody it does not like. Every murderer in the mobs may be recognized; there is no need to hide for nobody will be punished. To remain hidden where murder and riot incitement are crimes punishable by law requires the kind of skill which Hitler's men must possess in order to do the advance work Hitler wants done in any country he seeks to weaken and conquer. Any chance happening such as the altercation between the white and colored men on the Belle Isle bridge at Detroit is exactly the start to be manipulated and developed by the trained inciter of rioting.

Remember that Hitler calls us cowards because we are bombing Germany when we are out of reach of Nazi bombers. He can not wreck our war industries by bombs therefore he does the next best thing by disrupting morale and war production by the promotion of rioting.

Randolph Blames Roosevelt For U.S. Wave Of Rioting

A wildly enthusiastic audience which jammed the DuSable high school auditorium to capacity, heard A. Philip Randolph, national director of the March on Washington Movement, blast the Roosevelt administration for its "cold indifference" to the pleadings "of 13,000,000 black citizens crying for equal justice and opportunity," in the climactic address of the "We Are Americans, Too" conference, Sunday afternoon.

Randolph's stirring oration brought to a close the fiery five-day convention which drew hundreds of delegates from the Eastern seaboard, the far South and the Rocky Mountain region in a convergence on Chicago. Sharing the speaker's platform with him for the final session were Milton P. Webster, recently named to the reconstructed Fair Employment Practices committee, and Dr. E. Stanley Jones, evangelistic missionary to India.

The speaker laid the blame for the Detroit riots, as well as those in Beaumont and elsewhere, directly at the door of the White House in Washington, charging that Roosevelt's timidity and the "hands off" attitude of other government law enforcement agencies are giving anti-Negro elements in this country the green light.

Gov't Segregation Basic Cause

"Riots are the result of the government policy of segregation of and discrimination against Negroes," he declared, "and they will continue long after Htiler is dead and forgotten, if our government does not stop the jim-crow treatment of Negro citizens and begin to integrate them into the government and war and peace time industry on a basis of equality.

"The Negro is the only person subject to jim-crowism and it is up to him to take the initiative to abolish it. This is not a war for freedom, it is a war to maintain the old imperialism. It is a war to continue white supremacy and the subjugation, domination, and exploitation of the peoples of color."

Clarifying the action taken earlier in the week when the body voted to ban white membership, Randolph declared:

"While this is an all-Negro movement, it is neither anti-white, anti-labor, anti-Catholic or anti-Semitic. It is simply pro-Negro."

Blaming both parties for present unsatisfactory conditions, Randolph asked five questions:

Blames Both Parties

"What will the Republican party and its representatives in congress do to enforce that provision of the constitution which reads 'no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law?'

"What will the Republican party and its representatives in congress do to cut down the representation in congress of those states which discriminate against Negroes in voting?

"What will the Republicans and Democratic parties do to abolish jim crow housing, transportation, education, recreation and other social services?

"What will the Republicans and Democrats do to insure the permanency of the Fair Employment Practices committee?

"What will the Democratic and Republican parties do to break down discrimination in the armed forces?"

Earlier in the day, members of the group had unveiled and dedicated a scroll at the Negro soldiers' monument at Thirty-fifth street and South Parkway.

The scroll set forth: "Right here in our own country is one of the great issues of the war. Shall we have democracy for all of the people or for some of the people? An all-out war against fascism cannot be fought on a jim crow basis."

Election of officers found the entire panel retained in office. Randolph was reelected to the directorship, B. F. McLaurin was renamed national secretary and Aldrich Turner was held over as national treasurer.

March on Washington Delayed

Plans for the proposed march on Washington were placed in the hands of the executive committee for consideration, it being agreed that the decisions to march en masse on the capital would not be practical at this time.

The group was urged in a speech by Edgar G. Brown, National Negro council to promote an active participation in the 1944 Presidential campaign. It was recommended to the convention that it support the nationwide effort of the National Negro council to nominate delegates to be seated in the next Republican National convention and also direct the selection of some 60 Negroes to run for Congress in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina Virginia, Texas and Oklahoma.

Dr. Jones, the only white speaker on the Sunday morning program, outlined a seven-point plan for solution of the race's problems through "non-violence."

The conference was brought up to its climactic session with a series of heated meetings, during which many noted speakers appeared. Chief among the Friday addresses was that by Norman Thomas, chairman of the Socialist Party of America.

Raps Negroes' Disunity

He denounced Negroes in general for their poor organization. In part, he said:

"You have done an awfully bad job of organizing. The colored race holds enough balance of power to get anything if it would just stick together. The vote is its power. The race has done well but not well enough.

"To my way of thinking, the nation's worst scandal is not 'Jim-Crow in uniform,' but the Negro child in those disgraceful conditions surrounding the sharecropper farm in the South.

"A jim-crow army is to be expected when there is jim-crow in the schools, jim-crow in the streets, jim-crow in the trains and everywhere else you turn."

Vincent Baker, director of the National Modern Trend, in a speech Friday night asked: "Must prejudice follow the American flag wherever it goes?

Second Attack on FDR

"Ours," he said, "is the only country of all the united nations that enjoys the questionable distinction of having two armies, one white and one black."

President Roosevelt had come in for severe criticism earlier in the week when his "wishy-washy" attitude toward FEP and his appointment of Msgr. Francis Haas as chairman of the committee were attacked.

The President was accused of "selling out" to the reactionary elements of the country, and of weakening, rather than broadening, the powers of the FEP. The new chairman was criticized for acting in the Mobile riots without consulting with members of the committee, in accordance with regulations governing FEP.

The charges against President Roosevelt and Monsignor Haas were flung during the session which had been set aside for a discussion of "The Outlook and Future of FEPC." Participating were one member of the committee, Milton P. Webster; a recently deposed member, Earl C. Dickerson; two attorneys, Harold Stevens and Thurman Dodson, the latter from Washington, D. C.

61-1943

General

Lesson of Detroit: Let Us Win the Battle for Our Cities

By Mike Gold

It is with heavy shame that a New Yorker learns that our city is in danger of becoming the next scene of the spreading race riots.

Mayor LaGuardia has issued a warning that Hitler and his agents may next strike here.



MIKE GOLD

Let us not waste time in mouring, however, but let's organize against the Nazis.

Let us form a United Front of all races, creeds and colors that have made New York a metropolis long famed for its tolerance and progressivism.

We can learn to patrol our neighborhoods against the Nazi rumor mongers. We can pledge ourselves to smack down any provocateur when we meet him.

We can hold mighty mass meetings to teach the people the true nature of this battle. We can parade in our majestic strength and determination.

We can spread the idea of unity and discipline. The heart of New York is sound. New York people are decent and loyal Americans.

Why do we wait until the Nazi agents have confused and misled the people?

Let us take a positive stand against the possibility of race incitement. Let the Mayor and his police hunt down every Bundist or Christian Fronter spreading race slanders and put him on trial for treason.

And let the trade unions, churches, schools and all other organizations of the people of New York swing into action and form the United Front against Hitlerism.

The cities of America have been made battlefields of the war. It is as important for America to win the battle of Detroit as that fought in Attu or Guadalcanal. We can win the war in the Pacific Ocean and lose it on the streets of New York. Let us organize!

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Mayor Edward J. Kelly is to be complimented on the speedy tempo with which he reacted to the Detroit riots. We certainly view with favor his creation of a Chicago Racial Relations commission for the purpose of easing racial tensions where these exist and tackling those problems arising out of discrimination from which such racial tensions generally flow.

The Chicago Racial Relations commission has a big job ahead of it. What has happened in Mobile, Ala.; Beaumont, Texas; Chester, Pa., and Detroit can happen here. It can happen here because the same policy of restricting Negro Americans to the ghettos, denying them adequate housing and discriminating against them in restaurants, theatres and hotels exists here, in Chicago. These restrictions weaken the morale of an important section of America and hamper its power to contribute to the winning of the war, not only industrially but politically as well. And yet these restrictions present no insurmountable barriers to those of us who sincerely desire to solve the so-called race problem which is, to be exact, a problem of the extension of American democracy. They can be overcome, now and here.

Democracy must be extended now so as to utilize in its defense all of the social forces within the community. This is imperative if we would save our country. The men who are on Mayor Kelly's Racial Relations commission should and do understand this. They must adhere to this principle.

We believe that the mayor has made a happy selection in placing Dr. Edwin R. Embree as head of the commission. Dr. Embree has had tremendous experience in race relations and is a true friend of our race. We believe that the war situation demands that he utilize that experience to effect some far-reaching remedies. Racial relations in our country under war conditions differ considerably from racial relations under peacetime conditions. Those who deny the Negro an opportunity in times of war to participate in the activities that are necessary to save our country, automatically become the agents of the enemy, and there can be no tolerance toward them on the part of those who truly desire to save our country and to save world democracy. Appeasement of fascism is death. Detroit is making a terrible mistake in this direction.

The conclusions drawn by the Detroit prosecutor, Mr. Dowling, that the Negro people of Detroit are responsible for the riots are vicious in the extreme. They sharpen the tension between races. They prepare the ground for new attacks upon the Negro people. They constitute a threat to stop by all and any means the Negro people from demanding the extension of American democracy. Yet it must be clear that precisely this struggle on the part of Negroes is beneficial to our country as a whole. The mayor's commission can succeed only if it avoids any such approach as Mr. Dowling's in its examination of racial tensions in the city of Chicago.

PM
New York, N. Y.

More on Race Riots

Dear Editor:

If Hollywood could ever be persuaded to substitute films on the lives of such men as Booker T. Washington and Dr. George Washington Carver for its "Yassuh, Massa" depictions of our colored citizens, then for once the national movie industry might be worth more than a tepid damn.

I suggest that the city, perhaps in conjunction with the Police Dept., produce a series of movie shorts to be shown between features in all theaters. These shorts would be best presented with a commentator, pulling no punches. Let the people see what a riot looks like, let them see the contributing factors to colored discontent, such as inadequate housing of colored war workers and discrimination. Let them get good talking to by a master talker, and pound pound pound home to them that the "Negro problem" is largely of white man's making. Sure, this is stiff—but race prejudice is a narrow, rotten thing.

New York FRIEDA WEITZMAN

* * *

I was horrified at the pictures of the race-rioters. And unashamedly I wept, because it recalled to my mind the race-rioting in Warsaw when the Storm Troopers were standing over the defenseless people they were persecuting. There is no difference between the bestial and heartless Nazis and the rioters.

Harrisburg, Pa. ANNE VITAITIS

* * *

As a minister, I think of the job of our Negro chaplains in the Army, men whose duty it is to "keep up the morale." What morale! How can one undertake to keep up soldiers' morale when he himself cannot possibly have any morale in the face of such dastardly events that have taken place?

Quogue, L. I. W. EUGENE HOUSTON, JR.

NO RIOT NEWSREELS

Not one of five newsreel companies has shown pictures of the Detroit riots. Three, Paramount, Fox Movietone, and News of the Day, explained that their cameramen did not get

Goldstein Asks Race Harmony

Judge Jonah J. Goldstein of General Sessions has charged the July Grand Jury to be "on guard to prevent" catastrophe" of race riots in New York. He said:

"We must not be indifferent to the danger here. We must not imitate the ostrich.

"Bigotry should receive no quarter or weaker than the per- must continue to demonstrate that who enforce them. The virus democracy can and will work.

"Laws are weapons. They are no tinue to lead the way—New York scrimination, if not destroyed must concentrate on applications of existing laws, fighting our present war in vain."

Goldstein referred the jurors to laws forbidding exclusion of citizens from employment "by reason of race, color or creed," and to laws demanding arrest of rioters.

"Rioting, particularly race rioting," he said, "is merely the surface manifestation of deep-seated and underlying causes. Mob passion, no matter how high a pitch sufficient to result in the taking of life unless there are deep-rooted causes.

"Bigotry should receive no quarter in any part of our democracy. Cosmopolitan New York must continue to lead the way—New York must not be indifferent to the danger here. We must not imitate the ostrich.

"We must continue to demonstrate that the virus democracy can and will work.

"Laws are weapons. They are no stronger or weaker than the persons who enforce them. No tinue to lead the way—New York must concentrate on applications of existing laws, fighting our present war in vain."

Goldstein referred the jurors to laws forbidding exclusion of citizens from employment "by reason

Universal got pictures, but didn't show them. Pathe was frank. This company had misgivings, because showing such pictures in public might incite more riots.

Pathe is right, for even the stills of the Detroit mob overturning autos, setting them afire, pulling innocent passengers from street cars, standing over the prostrate bodies of beaten colored victims are shocking. Then there are two classic pictures.

One shows a mob striding along with four cops, demanding the right to beat the colored fellow two police are protecting. One of the white crowd is striking the colored fellow in the face. The police do not prevent it.

The other shows a policeman holding off a crowd while a colored fellow stands in the background with a gun.

The newsreels could have gotten to Detroit in time to film the riot, but there were other reasons. Their policy is not to exhibit the American people in mob demonstrations. No lynching has yet been filmed.

In addition, such factual pictures of United States race hate would be worth their weight in gold in every Axis country with which we are at war.

JUN 29 1943
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PRESIDENT

CONDEMNS RIOTING

Pittsburgh, Pa.

JUL 24 1943

EXCLUSIVE! WASHINGTON, July 22—In his first public statement—contained in a letter to Congressman Vito Marcantonio (A.L.P., N.Y.)—President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared "that the recent outbreaks of violence in widely-scattered parts of the country endanger our national unity and comfort our enemies."

The President's statement came in reply to a letter from the New York Congressman, urging the President to move against persons guilty of provoking anti-Negro riots and to speak out against these evils in a fireside chat.

ASKED BUREAU HEADS TO ACT

Last week also President Roosevelt discussed the Detroit riots with Congressman George Sadowski of Michigan.

The full text of the President's letter is as follows:

My Dear Mr. Marcantonio:

I share your feeling that the recent outbreaks of violence in widely-scattered parts of the country endanger our national unity and comfort our enemies. I am sure that every true American regrets this.

JUL 24 1943

I have asked the heads of several Government agencies, including the Attorney General, to give special attention to the problem.

Very sincerely yours,
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

FDR Urged to Talk To Nation on Riots

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, June 25.—Rep. Vito Marcantonio of New York appealed to President Roosevelt to make a fireside chat to the nation in denunciation of the fifth column forces which have been fomenting anti-Negro acts of violence throughout the country.

JUN 26 1943

In a letter to the President which he made public today, Marcantonio said:

"It is with high seriousness of purpose that I urge you to go before the people of America and the people of the world and speak out against those forces attempting to tear the fabric of national unity."

A similar proposal for a fireside chat was made yesterday by a delegation of Negro and white leaders in a conference with Government officials including White House Secretary Marvin McIntyre.

Marcantonio also urged protection of the Negro people against violence and immediate action by Federal agencies including the Department of Justice.

At the same time, Rep. George Bender, Ohio Republican, introduced a resolution which in general terms deplored the riots in Detroit, Los Angeles, Beaumont and elsewhere and added:

"The Congress hereby calls upon every citizen to do all everything in his power to maintain order and to discourage acts which destroy the moral principles upon which this nation now fights for survival."

JUN 25 1943

U.S. Senator Mead Calls Rioting National Disgrace

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

JUL 10 1943

WASHINGTON, July 8—(ANP)—Senator James Mead (D.) of New York called the recent wave of rioting a "national disgrace" and said "we should hang our heads in shame at our own negligence in permitting this dangerous development to spread beyond control."

He made his remarks on the floor of the senate Tuesday when that body took up the record appropriation bill for the war department.

FREEDOMS' STRUGGLE

Pointing to the four freedoms as the "keystone" of the compact among the United Nations, and praising the contributions being made by the Russian and Chinese people in support of them, Senator Meade declared that we must "look to the colored races of Asia and Africa for support in this struggle of the democracies for survival."

"It cannot be denied that we have trifled with our chances for victory by the complacency with which we have countenanced the spread of racial difference in our midst," he said. "This complacency must be supplanted by vigilance. The indifference must be replaced by serious concern; by righteous indignatioin and alarm at distrust and hatreds which un-

JUL 10 1943

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

ZOOT SUITS, RAPES AND RACE RIOTS, RECALLS "THE WOLF AND THE LAMB"

The Detroit massacre and the so called "Zoot-Suit" riots in Los Angeles, are one and the same picture—portents of a coming storm.

They have to do with overcrowded cities, lack of homes for the workers, poor sanitation, constant moving like gypsies and America's new war economy.

Newspapers all over America discount the seriousness of these riots, altho they could not conceal the fact that two large American cities were torn by lawlessness for a week, resulting in many deaths and serious injuries to hundreds.

JUL 3 1943

Instead of making a serious study of the underlying causes, the newspapers were content with long winded speculation and wise cracks about "zoot suits." But not a line about the social implications anywhere. They were both race riots and that is all there is to it. One was diretced against Mexicans and Negroes, the other in Detroit, against Negroes alone. No white wearers of the bizarre zoot-suits were involved. The dodgers looked for an angle and they found it in zoot suits.

We must stop soft-pedaling this issue. That will only aggravate it. Thruout the nation, Negroes have tered our war economy. They are in big factories, the inside of which a Negro has never seen before except as a porter or a flunkey. Now they are in with others of "color" and side by side with whites, they are producing materials for our war. Negroes, Mexicans, West Indians, are all being employed more and more as the production of our war materials becomes a critical problem.

JUL 3 1943

These men of color realize that they must improve their status now or never. Spurred on by injustices of the past, which continue to rankle within them, stirred by the crowning offense of discrimination, even in our armed forces, they have begun to stir. They are out for progress and are in no mood for further frustration. The result is apparent!

We Americans needed this warning. The social mixture which has exploded in Los Angeles and in Detroit could be duplicated in many other large cities. The bitterness on one side, and stubborness on the other, the assertion of a new found sense of self-respect on the hitherto disinherited people, caused a collision. Men of color refuse to be longer "kept in their places" and the results are now well known and should be studied.

The shame of all this should burn deeply into the hearts of every loyal American lest the outgrow spans this continent, mar to our shame before our allies in South and Central America. It may prove our greatest handicap to our good neighbor policy with Latin America.

JUL 3 1943

The Los Angeles and Detroit riots are a stern warning. Good news for Hitler—but the racial taint does us no good while fighting for democracy in the battle fields of the world.

NICHOLAS KLEIN
2nd National Bank Bldg.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Negroes And Government Officials Urged To Meet On Common Ground To Stop Riots

AUG 14 1943

The Harlem riot is deplorable as is any other mob lawlessness but it can serve as a harsh but overdue lesson to America and the Negro people.

Although the Negro has just reason for his deep and accumulated resentment against his status of inequality, it should now be evident to him that violent lawlessness can bring only death, destruction, and retarding of his progress. Such outbreaks make it harder for him to get jobs. It makes it easier for those who would segregate him and brand him as inferior. Most of all it puts the rioting Negro in the position of an active saboteur of America's war effort and gives opportunity for anti-Negro fascist groups to inspire race hatred among the white populace. All the Negro's effort must be applied to constructive channels to be of value; violent destruction and chaos will gain him nothing.

The lesson which should now be unmistakably learned by our President and all officials of Government whose greatest concern is with the swift prosecution of the war, is that the Negro people are fully aware and greatly resentful of their second-class citizenship status in an America fighting a war for the liberation of all peaple. A most siginificant point of the Harlem conflagration, yet unemphasized, which I feel gives it national import, is the obvious connection between a Negro soldier being shot in Harlem and the numerous reports of unjust attacks on Negro soldiers in the South. Could it be this unbearable correlation which made the flame of anger so hot among Harlem's citizens to start them on the road to blind madness and retribution? It is possible. If the War Department would insure the adequate protection for Negro soldiers stationed in the South, one potential riot cause would be eliminated. In many of the riot pictures, young women are seen looting; if they had war jobs they might not have been there. But employers in New York City are still practicing discrimination against Negro men and women; this can be stopped, eliminating another cause combined with the gradual elimination of bad housing, overcrowding and segregation of Negroes into ghettoes (with their concommitant evils of exploitation and deprivation).

AUG 14 1943

Our President must speak to all America on the absolute necessity of including Negroes in the total war effort thereby bolstering the rapidly ebbing morale of its citizens in the Armed services and any other future riots which only serve to hamper America's effort and a swift victory over the Axis. and out. Such actions as those mentioned above can do much to immediate action can America

61-1943

GENERAL

ONLY GOVERNMENT CAN END RIOTS

Afro - Baltimore, Md.

Biggest news on the Detroit riot was the discovery made by an AFRO woman reporter sent to cover a church conference in Cincinnati.

JUL 3 1943

When the riot broke, she set out for Detroit without waiting for an assignment. Making her way through the riot-ridden area, she took up a vantage point in a crowded police station where hundreds of men and women were brought in under arrest.

Her story is printed this week. At the time that she wrote, the death toll of colored persons was 27. Analysis showed that 7 succumbed to injuries inflicted by members of mobs.

JUL 3 1943

BUT 20 WERE KILLED BY BULLETS OF POLICEMEN. Had Detroit's jittery cops used their heads instead of their guns, the death toll of the riot would have been 7 colored, 3 white. Not a single white person was shot by the policemen.

Fifteen of the twenty men killed by the police were said to have been caught in the act of looting wrecked stores. Burglary is a felony, so is assault with intent to kill; so is inciting to riot; but the deadly guns of Detroit policemen seem to have been reserved for those whom they could accuse of looting.

In six cases, two or more officers shot the same man. They emptied their guns, meaning to kill rather than to maim. One police victim had two bullets in his body, another four. Two were shot in the back.

In the face of the downtown mobs, Detroit's cops were not so brave and so free with force. Mobs were allowed to beat innocent colored people while police held them.

Admitting that a riot is a difficult matter to handle in any metropolitan city, the city, State, and police authorities fell down miserably on their jobs.

Governor Harry Kelly, off on a junta to the governors' conference in Columbus, came back to wring his hands and issue meaningless statements until the situation was beyond control of any agency save Federal troops. Troops could as easily have been called when the riot started.

NOT BIGGEST RIOT

JUL 3 1943

Biggest race riot in World War I period occurred in East St. Louis, Ill., May 28 to July 2, 1917. Thirty-nine colored and eight white persons were killed.

Second largest World War I riot took place in Chicago July 27-August 2, 1919. After peace had been declared, 21 colored and 17 white persons were killed.

In both cases, actual rioting lasted six days and troops were slow in arriving. Blame for these disturbances was also placed on the influx of Southern war workers.

But then, mobs were the killers, not the cops or the troops. In the Chicago riot police killed only three persons.

MORE RECOMMENDATIONS EXPECTED

The report of the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, which investigated the Chicago riot, was published in 1922. It ought to be studied by the authorities in every large U.S. city today where the tensions of war are likely to set off the kind of race riots we had twenty-five years ago and the kind which are now in the process of repeating themselves.

That commission recommended:

1. That police and militia work out a detailed plan for joint action in case of riot.
2. That vice resorts in colored areas be closed.
3. That city recreational facilities be opened to all children.
4. That the public be educated to weigh rumor and propaganda designed to curb racial intolerance.
5. That better housing for colored workers be provided without segregation or unequal rents.
6. That colored workers join only labor unions which grant them complete equality.
7. That the daily press give colored people the same treatment in the news as other races and without racial emphasis.
8. That theatres, restaurants, stores and other places of public accommodation give all persons equal treatment.

JUL 3 1943

A committee or a commission will likewise probe the Detroit riot and come up with similar findings that will not solve our racial problems.

ONLY GOVERNMENT CAN END RIOTS

We do not depend upon voluntary public effort to raise taxes, fill draft quotas, or settle strikes. Why should we leave the field of interracial peace and tolerance to public cooperation?

JUL 3 1943

The Federal Government, in order to win the war quickly, save Americans' lives and America itself from destruction, must make racial intolerance a violation of Federal law.

Segregation must be illegal in any public place.

Every citizen must have the right to vote without being taxed or intimidated.

JUL 3 1943

It must be unlawful to refuse employment to any citizen on account of race.

Carey McWilliams had the idea, when he advocated in his new book, a Federal Fair Racial Practice Committee, a stronger Fair Employment Practice Committee, and a National Civil Rights Act.

We shall see these things appear in this war. But they will come, first, not because we wish for them but because we work for them; and, second, because we shall, before peace comes, be so desperately in need of every patriotic American's help, that we shall gladly give colored people freedom from oppression and equality of citizenship.

Out of such a war of necessity came the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. That is why we shall have a new emancipation in 1944-45.

We could spare ourselves and our country if it should get tough now with all saboteurs of the war effort, placing every available citizen, black and white, in war work and protecting him while he works.

Between The Lines

(By Dean Gordon B. Handcock for ANP)

Weekly Review
Birmingham, Ala.

JUL 17 1943

HAPPENINGS HERE:—HOLD THE NEGRO DOWN

The riotous outbreaks here and there about the country are sorry, sordid and sickening events. They easily constitute one of the ugliest developments in modern history. Even more than the cursed events themselves are their underlying motivations. And unless the situation is taken in hand by the states and localities themselves or by the federal authorities, we are in for some deplorable

defenseless Jews.

While it is a popular thing to charge everything to axis propaganda it may not be amiss for us to consider the possibilities that we have elements in this country just as capable of fomenting these outbreaks as ever the axis have. What is more, these elements were active long before the axis was ever dreamed of.

What transpired in Detroit roughly dramatizes the situation we consider the pattern of the Deroit riot we have some isolated motives arising in isolated communities. They are rather closely connected incidents directly related to a common cause of ing revelations. In the first place, with few exceptions, all rebuffing the Negro in his attempts to better his conditions. The killed in Detroit were Negroes. In the second place, with HND (Hold Negro Down) elements in this country are on the offen- few exceptions, most of those arrested were Negroes. Thirdly, sive, and even the war efforts are being subordinated to its stud- e number of the Negroes killed, were killed by the police. ied designs. The resurgence of the anti-Negro politician of ve here one of the most omnious revelations of the whole situ- South is one of the manifestations of the spirit and determination From the way policemen shot Negroes to assumption was of the HND's of America. Angered because the Negro wants to egroes were the instigators of the riot. From the way the enjoy some of the freedom he is fighting to guarantee to others s were arrested it might be assumed that Negroes were racial and national groups, these HNDs are now throwing democra- st in the disorder. How could Negroes be at once the great- cy, Christianity and God to the winds in their efforts to subjugate gators and the greater victims? the Negro. that Negroes

It is for this nation to say whether its war effort and its moral Negroes standings are to be subordinated to the designing ds of the HNDs It is just as well for the country to know that the threat is not alone against the future of the Negro, but against the sovereignty of the nation—and its survival. The Negro cannot be indefinitely subjugated without brutalizing effects upon the mind and morals of the nation and world. It is no more creditable for the HNDs to massacre defenseless Negroes than for the Germans to annihi

Negroes caught it going and coming—more Negroes killed, more Negroes arrested. This roughly indicates to Negroes foremost in expect when the riots break out. The policemen are patsiently out to protect the whites and not the Negroes. herein lies the danger. If the law enforcement authorities are carrying

into their work the assumption that the Negro is uniformly the trouble-maker, then the police are going to overlook the white hoodlum in their determination to quell the Negroes. Statistically, one would conclude that the Detroit riot was instigated by Negroes; factually we know this is not true.

The ugly spectacle of riotous outbreaks must be laid at the door of the HATEmongers whose major promise is un-Christian and un-American. Their policies are jeopardizing the moral standing of the nation abroad and queering our chances of leadership in the post-war world. A lawless nation may be popular because of the strength of its exchequer, but it will not be respected; and such respect as it will enjoy in the comity of the nations will be of the "dollar down" type.

It is just as well for this country to remember that the present threat is not so much against the Negro as against the nation itself. AMERICA MUST SAVE THE NEGRO OR IT SELF BE LOST. The thing that is producing riots against the Negroes in this country is far more dangerous than that which is hampering our war program through strikes. Both are giving great comfort to the enemy. Both are happening here.

JUL 17 1943

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Sociologist Recommends Steps to Prevent Riots

NEW YORK—An article, "How to Prevent Race Riots," by Winifred Raushenbush, a sociologist of national reputation, appearing in the September issue of the American Mercury, details six steps that any community threatened with racial trouble can take to avert clashes of the nature of the Detroit riot, which claimed the lives of thirty-four persons, twenty-five of them colored.

Admittedly her article says, Miss Raushenbush, by-passes "consideration of deeper historical and economic consideration" and is of the opinion that "the underlying causes (of riots) cannot be cured in a week or a year."

The measures she advocates "are practical steps that can and must be taken by public-spirited citizens in danger areas. These are emergency measures aimed to minimize the duration and havoc if trouble does break out and, more important, measures to avert riots altogether."

Following are her suggested remedies:

1. Through newspapers and radio stations instruct citizens to report incitory rumors to the proper authorities;
2. Check with authorities to be sure red tape has been eliminated for declaring a state of martial law immediately if necessary;
3. Insist that the best trained and most intelligent members of the local police force be assigned to danger areas;
4. Insist on recreational facilities being provided for adolescent youths of both races, who are the most active participants in race clashes;
5. Set up a grievance committee and invite members of both races to air their difficulties freely; and
6. Enlist the full aid of the churches of all denominations.

SEP 4 1943

'We Urge You...' A Letter to FDR By 800 Americans on Race Violence

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Eight hundred civic, church, educational and labor leaders joined in addressing an appeal to President Roosevelt urging him to act against those seditious forces in America provoking violence against Negroes and minority races. The joint letter was petitioned through the International Labor Defense office by its President, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, to whom President Roosevelt recently wrote his endorsement of Marcantonio's stand on such outrages as the Detroit riot. Below is the letter signed by 800 leading Americans.

JUL 30 1943

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We call your attention to a series of outbreaks of violence against Negro people and other minority groups in the country which have developed in various sections of the United States. The mass murders and anti-Negro rioting in Detroit, the lynching of Cellos Harrison in Marianna, Florida, and the riot of ten thousand whites against the Negro population of Beaumont, Texas, are but the latest in a mounting series of grave incidents of similar nature, which includes the so-called "Zoot Suit—Sailor War" in Los Angeles, the strikes against upgrading Negro war production workers in Detroit, Michigan and Mobile, Alabama, the pitched battles between Negro troops and white military police at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, the slaying of three Negro soldiers at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, the clash of Negro soldiers and civilian police at Collins, Mississippi, the shooting of four Negro soldiers at Riverside, California, and numerous other instances of riots, lynch mobs, police terrorism and incitement to anti-Negro strikes, all occurring within the short span of the last few months.

There is a peculiar Hitler-like pattern running through all these occurrences which in our opinion is more than accidental. It is significant that anti-Negro outbreaks have been stimulated precisely in those areas which are keys to successful war production and in and about military training areas. It is significant that immediate use of these outbreaks is made by enemy short-wave radio broadcasting agencies to spread distrust of American democracy among peoples of darker races in India, China, Africa and prevent the repetition of these assaults. In consequence it must be said that in transit to training areas, in civilian communities around training areas in certain sections of the country Negro soldiers are subjected to unjust and brutal treatment without cause, to the harm of their own morale and to the great distress of their parents and loved ones who live in constant fear of the lynching or shooting of their soldier-relatives.

Your cordial reception of a group of outstanding leaders of the Negro church recently, your re-affirmation in Executive Order 9346 of the federal principle of no discrimination in employment in war industry, your recognition of the great heroism of our Negro troops through awards of the Navy Cross to Negro sailors and of other medals of valor to Negro soldiers are all tokens of your determination not only to mete out justice to all Americans, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin, but as well of your firm determination as Commander-in-Chief to tolerate no act which will retard our war effort or jeopardize the security and independence of the American Nation. In these actions you have the love and respect of the whole American people.

The time has come, Mr. President, when you and only you can strike a blow against those Nazi-influenced forces within our borders who strike at the very heart of our democracy at a time when it fights for its very existence. Only your voice, Mr. President, as the Nation's Commander-in-Chief has the authority necessary to rally every decent force in American life against these influences that seek to undermine our national unity.

It is with high seriousness of purpose that we urge you to go before the people of America and the people of the world and speak out against those forces attempting to tear the fabric of national unity. We urge you to make an historic fireside chat dealing specifically with the events mentioned in this letter. We urge you to place your high office back of guarantees that Negro people and other minority groups will be freed from every hindrance which prevents their full participation in our war effort; that every member of our armed forces will be given full and adequate protection by the federal government wherever he may be. And we urge you to effectuate these vitally necessary declarations with proper directives to the various agencies of government under your direction. Such action will sustain the morale of thirteen million Negro people and millions of other minority groups whose labor and devotion are essential to victory. such action will extend its influence to hundreds of millions of peoples of darker races throughout the world, without whose support the war cannot be won. Such action, we believe, will win the deepest understanding and response of all American people.

Latin America who are our allies. The total effect upon our war effort of these incidents is, of course, to retard industrial production, to impair the morale of our armed forces and to injure national unity so vital to the successful prosecution of America's war of survival.

We are well aware that nothing we have said thus far is new to you. It serves, however, as the basis for suggestions we would urge upon you as Commander-in-Chief. We are deeply convinced that effective steps to thwart the designs of enemy agencies to create racial strife in the United States must be taken by you personally. The actions of the Department of Justice in investigating all cases of lynching since the outbreak of the war at your direction, while commendable have not had the desired effect. While in no sense suggesting abandonment of such activity, we must point out that in no case involving a lynching has a conviction been obtained. Indeed, while recognizing many problems confronting the Department of Justice, it seems fair and objective criticism to state that it has not made the accomplishment which must be made if this hideous problem is to be solved. In no case involving the murderers of their civil and constitutional rights has the Department of Justice—either in directly through State prosecutions for murder, or directly secured in a year through Federal prosecutions for violations of the Civil Rights Statute (Title 18, Sec. 51)—succeeded. And in consequence we have not secured the punishment of a person or persons responsible for these activities by the same forces this crime. In no case involving a strike at the vital of a Negro soldier has the Department of Justice action been successful, tacks upon the Negro communities in murderous attacks by a white mob in Detroit over a year ago against known pro-Nazi individuals have yet to be prosecuted. And in consequence we have not had the desired effect. While in no sense suggesting abandonment of such activity, we must point out that in no case involving a lynching has a conviction been obtained. Indeed, while recognizing many problems confronting the Department of Justice, it seems fair and objective criticism to state that it has not made the accomplishment which must be made if this

Name 22 Cities Where Danger Of Outbreaks Exist

OCT 30 1943

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa

SAFEGUARD RACIAL PEACE AT HOME

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Twenty-two cities in the United States where racial tensions are acute and where "danger of riots exists" are cited in a pamphlet, "How To Prevent A Race Riot in Your Home Town," released this week, by the American Civil Liberties union through its Committee Against Race Discrimination.

The cities named are Birmingham, Ala.; Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, Conn.; Chicago, Ill.; Indianapolis and Gary, Ind.; Alexandria, Baton Rouge and Shreveport, La.; Detroit, Mich.; Baltimore, Md.; Newark, N. J.; Columbus, Ohio; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chester, Pa.; Providence, R. I.; Houston and Dallas, Tex.; Memphis, Tenn., and Washingotn, D. C. In addition, there are scores of other war production centers and towns located near army camps which face similar dangers.

STEPS RECOMMENDED

The pamphlet holds that riots can be prevented if the leaders of the community care enough about loss of life and property to spend a few weeks on the problem. Six steps are recommended:

1. **A Public Relations committee consisting of influential people should check with the chief of police, the mayor and the governor as to what arrangements have been worked out for bringing in extra police and militia in the event of a riot.**
2. **Have the Public Relations committee check with the chief of police on the policing of colored and mixed neighborhoods.**
3. **Ask citizens to report all rumors about racial trouble to a center designated by the Citizen's committee.**
4. **Provide jobs and work for young people, both white and colored, many of whom otherwise might participate in race riots.**
5. **Set up an Information Committee which can be depended upon to provide reliable and authoritative information on local race relations.**
6. **A final emergency measure is to call in the aid of the clergy and of church members.**

The pamphlet was written by Winifred Raushenbush, secretary of the committee, who has investigated riots and riot causes and prevention in many parts of the United States.

ARE BEING PREVENTED

The upsurge of interest in race riot prevention and in better race relations since the Detroit riot is astonishing, says Miss Raushenbush. The Rosenwald fund lists 84 official interracial committees appointed by governors and mayors since then.

"Race riots not only can be prevented; they are being prevented on an average of once a week," the pamphlet states. "It is all a matter of the know how. Three weeks' organization will set up committees and groups of responsible citizens who are willing to work to prevent what happened in Detroit: loss of 34 lives, 319 injuries, 1505 arrests, loss of 1,000,000 man-hours, loss of 30 to 50, and in some neighborhoods, 90 per cent of retail sales, life savings of more than 200 shopkeepers, and destruction of more than $2,000,000 worth of property."

Race Riots: 1830-1943

This is not a complete list but it includes major riots in U. S. history. In some instances information was not complete as to the city or cities where riots occurred.

1831	Bristol, Tenn.
1834	Charleston, S. C.
1834	New York, N. Y.
1835	Baltimore, Md.
1841	Cincinnati, Ohio
1844	Philadelphia, Pa.
1848	Cincinnati, Ohio
1854	Boston, Mass.
1863	New York, N. Y.
1874	Vicksburg, Miss.
1874	New York, N. Y.
1875	Clinton, Tenn.
1889	South Carolina
1900	New Orleans, La.
1900	Akron, Ohio
1900	New York, N. Y.
1906	Ohio
1907	Pacific Coast
1908	Springfield, Ohio
1911	Washington, D. C.
1911	San Antonio, Texas
1917	East St. Louis, Ill.
1917	Houston, Texas
1917	Illinois
1918	Philadelphia, Pa.
1919	Chicago, Ill.
1919	Washington, D. C.
1919	Longview, Texas
1921	Arkansas
1921	Tulsa, Okla.
1935	Harlem, New York, N.Y.
1943	Mobile, Ala.
1943	Newark, N. J.
1943	Los Angeles, Cal.
1943	Camp Stewart, Georgia.
1943	Beaumont, Texas
1943	Detroit, Mich.
1943	Camp Shenango, Pa.
1943	Harlem, New York, N.Y.

Can Recent Race Riots Be Traced to Nazi Propaganda?

Informer AUG 14 1943

YEA

We in this country are pretty gullible at times. Any man of the right color can put ideas into the heads of both Negroes and whites that will result in more trouble than riot squads and auxiliary police can quell. Because fifth columnists know that they can make use of the fact of the Negro's denial in a country that sets forth principles of democracy, and because they know that prejudice knows no reason; they have been able to plant a seed here and there which has told its story in Harlem, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Beaumont, Dallas and even here in Houston.

S. Davis. AUG 14 1943

61

Houston Texas

To a very great extent. Nazi propaganda need not be told in person by a Nazi. Some of the stuff which they circulate is on the lips of some Americans in very high places. A congressman who tells his body of the House that Negroes are draft dodgers, etc. is doing his bit to tear down morale, to nourish racial indignation, and to intensify racial hatreds probably existent among some members of his body. A Negro who lends an ear to someone who asks why he is so all-fired patriotic in light of everything, and who passes the idea on to other colored brothers is a Nazi tool, probably unknowingly. This is the stuff of which riots are made.

Charlotte Cotton.

AUG 14 1943

Definitely. Not until I understood what the phrase "divide and conquer" meant did I know how much rioting is traceable to little hatreds that have grown too big to contain themselves any longer. If you saw the picture "Keeper of the Flame" you realized how little subtle hints can make little elements of discord grow and grow until everybody is mad at everybody else. One of the characters said in substance that it is sad how we fall for that sort of thing.

AUG 14 1943

NAY

Nazi nothing. Most of our troubles are definitely home brewed. Negroes who, now that we are helping to defend our country, feel that they should not be further kicked around are reacting against it. The increased opportunities to work, and greater purchasing power figure largely also. In short, there is many a chip on many a shoulder today. Now the white man who may have certain prejudices reacts unfavorably to adequate pay for Negroes, increased purchasing power. Put these two tensions together, and remember that feeling often takes precedence over thinking, and there is a perfect recipe for a riot.

V. Edwards.

AUG 14 1943

—•—

It would be less shameful if we could trace our rioting to someone other than Nazis. There are too many Americans who have not realized that petty prejudices can help us lose the war at the front, and forfeit any possibility of peace here at home. I think it is Charlie Barnett who now has a mixed orchestra, if I remember, he has four Negroes in the aggregation. One of the Courier writers interviewed him in an effort to know how it is working out. Barnett has many headaches, some audiences don't like the idea, some hotels will not think of letting the men be housed in their places etc. As long as we feel that way, we will have the roots for rioting.

R. R. Beckett.

AUG 14 1943

—•—

When the people trump up a charge of rape in order to say that they do not want to work with Negroes, when peace officers (?) beat Negroes for minor infractions of the law, when Negroes carry chips on their shoulders, when Negroes make unnecessary displays of money that they should be saving; that is when a riot begins to brew. We need much education here on the home front. The President's interracial group, if it is to be, needs to get to work now, and keep it up a long time.

AUG 14 1943

Anon.

Behind The Race Conflicts

Informer Houston Texas

By GEORGE EDMUND HAYNES

(Second of Two Articles)

Rumors, the attitude of law enforcement officers, lack of recreation, school and other public facilities, and the activities of prejudiced organizations are triggers that release pent-up racial feelings and attitudes.

SEP 4 1943

Rumor spreads report minor acts of violence or fabrications of such incidents are maddened, lawless crowds destroy lives and property. Race divisions intensify these outbreaks. At Beaumont, Texas, a white woman telephoned the police and her husband that she had been raped by a Negro, but a hospital examination revealed no bruises or other signs of hurt. Yet, state troops had to be called out to quell a riot in which two persons were killed, scores wounded and about two hundred Negro homes, shops and stores were wrecked and looted.

SEP 4 1943

At nearby Houston, rumor spread among Negroes that whites were planning to drive against them and whites were told that Negroes were making plans to attack them. With people jittery, two interracial commissions and members of the white and Negro chambers of commerce met promptly with the acting mayor and other officials. They signed a full-page advertisement in the leading newspaper, which said in part, "Loose talk helps Hitler. Baseless rumors about possible racial troubles are being circulated by loose tongues, thoughtless people . . . " The people were assured that every rumor had been investigated by police, federal authorities, and well-known citizens who found no

Fear Leads to Clashes

In Detroit, the Negro community the Detroit River. Among whites was aroused by a rumor that a Ne-a story was told that three white

rioting crowds beat Negroes until they fell senseless. It is admitted that 17 of 29 Negroes killed were shot by police, and 85 per cent of the persons arrested were Negroes. New York City police, however, during the recent outbreak in Harlem, were praised for their conduct by Negroes and more than a thousand Negro citizens served as volunteers on night patrol with white policemen.

Another important factor in racial tensions and frictions is lack of adequate public services in segregated Negro districts. In Harlem, war conditions have increased the need for facilities for play and recreation for crowds frequenting places where "jive, jazz and liquor" are substitutes. An official of a local liquor dealers organization is reported to have said the the looted bars of Harlem were afterwards given five times as much whiskey as they ordinarily get. Many of these places are owned by whites, and protests from Negro residents are usually ineffective. In Detroit, for leisure hours, recreation opportunities in the segregated, congested Beaubian-Hastings district are almost nil; so Negroes crowd Belle Isle Park on Sundays and holidays.

No Recreation Facilities

In Beaumont and other southern cities Negroes are excluded from parks and playgrounds except in a few cities where they have segregated provision. The acute need before Pearl Harbor has been greatly increased as Negro soldiers from nearby camps visit Negro neighborhoods. Schools, hospitals and other public facilities in Negro communities are low or much below standard.

The activities of organizations known to harbor color prejudices have had their effect on tensions and conflicts. About two weeks before the riot in Detroit the Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, Atlanta, Georgia is alleged to have admitted by telephone to a Detroit newspaper that he had active groups there. At least six other organizations in that city have been publicly named as fostering racial tensions. However, the peaceful white-Negro relations in the UAW-CIO unions were stabilizers during the riot. A White Supremacy league was launched in Birmingham in 1941.

On the other hand, Negroes have an increasing attitude of resistance to efforts of unthinking whites to "keep them in their place." Organizations for race rights and advancement have stimulated this attitude by conferences, mass meetings, publicity and other means of agitation. Two widely published articles last year scored Negro newspapers and agitators for causing unrest. The critics overlooked the fact that economic and social conditions underlie the restlessness. Newspapers have wielded much influence in the changing tides of group feeling and attitudes. For two periods in recent years certain New York newspapers carried on a publicity campaign that exaggerated crime in Harlem. Newspapers all over the nation still mention the race of Negroes and seldom that of other accused persons in reports of crimes.

Prevent Racial Tension and Conflict

How can we end racial strife and prevent tensions and conflicts? Here are some suggestions based upon long experience in many communities:

1. The problem of racial contacts should be a first concern for every American. Each individual should work positively and constructively instead of being merely a spectator, wherever racial tensions arise and interracial justice or goodwill can be advanced. Each one can act in his daily experience on his own job, in his club, home, church or synagogue and community.

2. **Those who decide should seek to join hands with other like-minded persons. In many communities there are already interracial committees, commissions, or fellowships. Where no interracial organization exists, strong leaders should begin to organize to meet emergencies, to correct bad conditions, to prevent unfair practices where they do not already operate, to stop rumors, to improve public services, and to secure the aid of all groups in cooperative action. Interested persons may ally themselves with the active national campaign now being carried on by several church organizations led by the Federal Council of Churches for a nation-wide enlistment to end these days of strife.**

3. An organized interracial group should include leaders of labor, of management, of civic, social and religious agencies, as well as patriotic citizens. They should have the confidence of their own group and be favorably known to the opposite racial group. Mutual interests now make cooperative action imperative.

4. Group meetings, whether or not there is a going organization, should be held to discuss plans and methods for each community where a number of citizens wish to take a hand. Some collection of information on minority groups and race relations should be made as a basis for such discussion. In communities where there is no apparent conflict, inquiry may disclose tensions wherever there are large numbers of Negroes, Mexicans, Orientals or Indians.

5. Recommendations should be worked out and made to the mayor of the city, to police officials and other public officers for their policies and action in changing basic conditions and for emergencies. Open outbreaks usually occur suddenly.

6. In places where clashes have already occurred, or where tensions are acute, steps should be taken as rapidly as possible to have meetings of important leaders of racial groups. Plans for conferences and larger meetings should be made where speakers with goodwill messages can allay fears and refute rumors and where plans for constructive work can be announced. Advertisements in the leading newspapers over signatures of community leaders should emphasize sanity, goodwill, and constructive action.

7. Whether employers or workers, local citizens can give strong support to help get the President's executive order against discrimination in industry and in government employmemnt applied and enforced in their own areas.

8. White leaders who have unprejudiced attitudes and ability of leadership should take part in the work of minority racial organizations to bridge the isolated, segregated life of these groups. Leaders from the Negro or other minority groups should be drawn into the general organizations for community welfare. Such penetration on matters of mutual interest will help to remove misunderstandings and suspicions, and to strengthen ties of the whole community.

9. **Some means should be furthered in each community, either through a local social agency, a local federation or council of churches, or through the ministers' association or other groups to secure leaders in all the age groups of churches, social and civic agencies, who will serve as liaison for any central organization, its plans and program.**

Christian Recorder

RACE RIOTS.

Philadelphia, Pa.

The engineering of a program to end racial discrimination in America is, today a practical possibility.

The war has released throughout the world (despite momentary manifestations to the contrary) a great upsurge of democratic sentiment. It is now possible to mobilize the political strength necessary to effectuate those controls and procedures essential to a real job of social engineering on race problems.

The reluctance of the rest of the nation to interfere in the South has noticeably abated in the last two decades. Thousands of people realize today that, as PM has stated, "the South needs help." There are progressive elements throughout th South that would actually relish national intervention.

All of America is coming to a general realization of the fact that the South's attempted soluion of he race problem—namely, a sysem of biracialism—is an obvious failure. Racial segregation, like slavery itself, is a malignant growth in a democracy. Biracialism is stultifying, costly, stupid, and self-perpetuating. It breeds resentment, suspicion and humiliation, and undermines the Negro's faith in democratic Government itself.

Now is not only the opportune time to liquidate the last vestiges of this sysem in America, but we *must* proceed to do so if the critical tensions already developing are not to explode, with disastrous consequences, either in the immediate future or during the post-war period.

In mapping out a program of social action on race problems the first consideration to be recognized is that, as Max Lerner has said, "the conditions under which a negative state was able to function—no longer apply. They have been destroyed by a world revolution. And yet the same revolution gives us the tools for *an affirmative state.*"

We should not fear the exercise of the power of the state for democratic objectives. The mere fact, for example, that government has not acted in a particular field does not constitute a reason why it should not act now, if the necessity is apparent. At the outset of democratic development, it was perhaps sufficient merely to define humans rights. In a world of open resources and expanding industrial opportunities, it was sufficient to define the right and to remove the shackle. Bu in this kind of world it becomes imperative that the right be implemented and that the vague declaration be enforced.

Our first assignment, therefore, is to establish the principle that *as a matter of national policy*, there shall be no discrimination against individuals because of race, color, creed, or country of national origin.

If we adopt a national policy against discrimination, it can be implemented by appropriate directive to every national planning agency.

To assist in the development of such a policy, a Congressional committee of inquiry should be created to investigate the whole problem of colored minorities in the United States. The scope of the inquiry should be broad and all-inclusive; it should not be limited to any one group or to any particular area. Out of such a hearing would come, I am convinced, a series of concrete recommendations.

The first step which Congress should take is to enforce—to implement—the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. This action should take the form of re-enacting a new federal civil-rights status. To be sure, the Court held the original act unconstitutional; but precedents have been reversed and, in view of the way in which the Court has changd its own theory of the Fourteenth Amendment, it is altogether likely that such an act would be upheld today.

To be effective federal intervention must take place on several different levels. One of the most serious handicaps which colored minorities face today is that of residential segregation. Segregation by ordinance has been held unconstitutional; but segregation by restrictive clauses in grant deeds has been upheld.

In the exercises of its wartime powers, the Federal government can unquestionably disregard these restrictive clauses or even suspend their enforcement for the duration if it so desires.

The problem of colored minorities in the United States is merely a reproduction on a miniature scale of a set of similar problems which will be faced by whatever federation of powers or international energies from this war. Our Indian problem has its parallel throughout Central and South America. Our Negro problems has its parallel in the West Indies, in Central America, in Africa. Our small-scale problem with the natives of American Samoa and Guam has its stupendous counterpart in the whole problem of native peoples throughout the Pacific area. These problems are not "solved" merely by the declaration that "imperialism" must be banished from the post-war world. The problem of adjustment, of acculturation, of cultural conflict, remains. By taking the initiative here, we might be in a position to assert real world leadership in relation to these same problems after the war. On the other hand, by continuing an ostrich-like do-nothing policy at home, we are certainly inviting another Versailles.

—CAREY McWILLIAMS.

—(P. M.)

61-1943

Paul Mallon -

Record Columbia Sc

WASHINGTON—The race riots over the country (Beaumont, Los Angeles, Detroit, Mobile) are being watched from Washington with tightly drawn, silent lips, but with much inner perturbation and comment.



MALLON

It has become customary for officials to lecture the hoodlums on both sides about law and order, and the necessity for being calm in strained emotional periods of war-time, but this does not seem to be doing much good. It does not even reach in the direction of the causes or cure of the tragic, expanding condition.

The ultra radical New York newspaper PM, and the CIO publications, which either instigated or sensationally backed a movement, at the start of the war, to get the Negroes full social and economic equality, swiftly, during the domestic upset contingent with the war effort, have taken the line since the riots that they are inspired by fascists.

Record

They pictured for a Negro mother whose boy was killed by white hoodlums in Newark, ignoring news from a Georgia camp about one white MP being killed and five white soldiers maimed the same day, although at these men also presumably had mothers.

One such edition of PM carried ten pages of exciting (if not inciting) pictures depicting the brutal, savage beatings of Negroes, and only one picture of an injured white man. Their whole treatment of this humiliating situation for both whites and Negroes, holds the white hoodlums solely responsible.

One of their writers suggests that the cause of the trouble can be traced solely to rumors, another says an incidental altercation of a white and Negro inspired outbreaks, etc.

Riots do not grow out of a rumor or many rumors, or even isolated incidents, but out of a general situation. First you must have an explosive general condition in which such sparks may ignite.

The riots do directly serve the cause of the enemies of this country, but alert government agencies have come forward with no proof of a direct Axis agent contact either with rumors or riots. No one seems to know the true cause of most of them. In one place, it is one thing; in another, another. But in all cases it is a clash over the rights of Negroes—and, of course, the very same radical American sources who make these charges are the ones who are championing a reform of these "rights" to the fullest in the midst of war.

Now no one is going to accomplish much good trying to talk common sense and truth in the midst of a swirling situation like this. Yet it will only make matters worse to blind the country to the truth of the condition.

Any minority group of a white color in this country, attempting aggressive action to elbow its way to complete economic and social justice in the midst of war, would run into the same thing which the radical Negro movement has encountered.

For instance, the white-collar workers have suffered great economic setbacks from the war. Their taxes and prices have risen tremendously out of all comparison with their increase in wages.

But if they attmepted to get their rights during war by a march on Washington, or by Mahatma Ghandi's sit-down tactics, or by shoving people of sidewalks or organizing belligerent meetings to demand that the present act in such and such a way—in short, if they conducted themselves in a physically aggressive manner, they would run into the same physical opposition.

Any minority group of any color, in any country in the world during war, would encounter the same spirit. Consider what would happen, for instance, to a Pacifist group, radical members of which made revolutionary speeches for their rights.

It must be apparent, therefore, that the solution of these racial difficulties is not going to be found if the counsel of the radicals on both sides and their hoodlums is followed. A temperate course is demanded not only by one side but by both.

Such a course can be directed only by active temperate leadership of Negroes by Negroes and of whites by whites. Wiser counsels must be made to prevail on both sides—not just one.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Dies Plans Broad Probe Of Race Riots

Washington, June 26 (AP)—Plans for an exhaustive, nation-wide investigation of "the growing racial antagonisms in this country" were disclosed tonight by Chairman Dies of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

"It is a grave error for the Government to ignore this dangerous situation," he said.

Dies (D., Texas) ascribed the "racial hatred" to "a combination of un-American propaganda activities and the coddling of races by politically minded people in this country who ignore the vast differences between the protection and the coddling of a race."

General

Will Hear Groups.

The Texan said representatives of various race groups will be invited to present their problems and their suggestions for curing them, and persons responsible for spreading race trouble will be subpoenaed to public hearings.

Dies declared he will recommend that his committee call in "Government officials charged with the enforcement of our laws to show cause why prompt and vigorous action has not been taken against all people engaged in un-American propaganda activities to stop the dissemination of racial and class hatreds in this country."

He added he plans to ask the House for additional personnel and funds to augment his present staff of seven investigators.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HOW TO PREVENT RACE RIOTS

President Roosevelt writes to Representative Marcantonio that he shares his "feeling that the recent outbreaks of violence in widely scattered parts of the country endanger our national unity and comfort our enemies." The President has asked the Attorney General and others in authority to "give special attention to the problem" of race riots. Of course these words do not indicate any change of attitude on Mr. Roosevelt's part. It is more than two years since he set up the Committee on Fair Employment Practices and issued an executive order requiring defense contractors "not to discriminate against any worker because of race, creed, color or national origin." He has stood faithfully for fair play for the Negro and other minorities. And it would be hard to find any American, from the President down, who would say publicly that he does believe in "outbreaks of violence" and in race riots.

Nevertheless, we do need to be reminded of this danger. Big riots are always preceded by little ones, little riots by chronic squabbling and friction, and all of them come out of attitudes which in the beginning may not be violent at all. We must each remember that there are no degrees of citizenship in this country. We can find our friends and associates where we like, but we can't deny to anyone a civic right we claim for ourselves. If the civic rights are cheerfully granted, if equality of opportunity is generally recognized, if we measure our fellows by character and ability, if we refuse to be badgered into suspecting or disliking whole groups of people for no reason or for foolish reasons, we will be doing our loyal part to help our country and discourage our country's enemies. This is a job we can each work at every day. If we work at it faithfully enough there won't be any race riots.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

PROBE OF RACE RIOTING SOUGHT BY SEN. BROOKS

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., July 6.—An immediate senate investigation of the recent race riots and related problems in the war program was demanded today by Senators Wayland Brooks [R., Ill.] and Styles Bridges [R., N. H.]. Their demand was referred to the senate judiciary committee. Sen Brooks said a fund of $25,000 will be requested for the inquiry.

Chairman Frederick Van Nuys [D., Ind.] appointed a subcommittee of three to make the investigation, subject to approval by the committee and authorization by the senate tomorrow. Those tentatively appointed are Senators Pat McCarran [D., Nev.], Joseph C. O'Mahoney [D., Wyo.], and Homer Ferguson [R., Mich.].

Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council, said that the inquiry will have a salutary effect on the war program. He attributed much of the present difficulty to the administration's failure to correct the housing situation.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Race Riot

The destructive elements responsible for the recent race riots at Detroit and elsewhere should be ascertained and just punishment meted out. The common decency of man shudders at these revelations of sadism and rowdyism for which there should be no place in these civilized United States. The Nazis and the Fascists, who have encouraged and fostered barbarism of this sort, will, by the grace of God, suffer the consequences of their crimes, let there be no doubt about that. If they or their cohorts in this country are the instigators and perpetrators of these subversive movements, the individuals responsible should be seized and silenced forever.

JACK KIMBALL.

Washington, July 1.

PM
New York, N. Y.

Editor Blasts Pittsburgh Discrimination

Courier

...Whenever the daily white press in the South comes out for fairness to Negroes, that is a factor which may give hope for the future. Here is an excerpt from the Richmond (Va.) News Leader, concerning the Detroit race riots:

"Every American who has command of his intellectual faculties ought to know that the nation cannot take the Negro youth out of the country, put it in the army, demand full service of every state selective service and publish Negro in the name of patriotism, and then expect ly attacked ... and pigotry over station ... fair play and the honorable opportunity for which ere Des Moines, last Sunday. he is supposed to fight."

He said, "Wherever members of the races here maim and kill one another they remove that many Americans from the number that vital questions affecting the Negro. gth should be solidly fighting for freedom.

"Race riots are treason! Everyone, white or black, who willfully participates in one should be branded with a Nazi, a Japanese or Italian insignia as an axis ...ar aide."

Allies See Intolerance In Race Riots—Willkie

Wendell Willkie turned last night that millions of people among our war allies look upon the recent race ... in the U. S. A. as "a sign of racial arrogance and intolerance on our part, which will sooner or later affect our relation to them."

In a radio talk over the NBC network, Willkie said:

"Among our allies are millions, yes, hundreds of millions of people who differ from us in race and color. They do not look upon America's race riots as mere ... internal disturbances in the United States . . .

"Our ability to help make this a world in which there can be peace and order depends as much on how we live up to our proclaimed ideals, as on the strength of our arms. It depends also upon our ability to understand the other peoples of the world."

Willkie called for closest cooperation with and understanding of Russia, declaring there can be no continued peace unless we work with Russia after the war. He predicted that Russia and the U. S. A. would be the two strongest nations of the world in the postwar period.

Rumors, Police Attitude, Lack Of Public Facilities, Biased Groups Held Riot Sores

Journal and Guide
SEP 4 1943
Norfolk, Virginia

By DR. GEORGE E. HAYNES

Problem Of Racial Contacts Should Be First Concern Of Every American

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recent race riots have roots deep in the history of Negro-white relations. Last week in this column the first of two articles was published which discussed the causes of racial tensions. The author is a noted authority, Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary, department of race relations of the Federal Council of Churches. Last week the p[illegible] social [illegible] was outlined. In this concluding article nine suggestions are offered for ending racial strife.

* * * *

Rumors, the attitude of law enforcement officers, lack of recreation, school and other public facilities, and the activities of prejudiced organizations are triggers that release pent-up racial feelings and attitudes. Rumor spreads reports of minor acts of violence or fabrications of such incidents and maddened, lawless crowds destroy lives and property. Race divisions intensify these outbreaks. At Beaumont, Texas, a white woman telephoned the police and her husband that she had been raped by a Negro, but a hospital examination revealed no bruises or other signs of hurt. Yet, state troops had to be called out to quell a riot in which two persons were killed, scores wounded and about two hundred Negro homes, shops and stores were wrecked and looted.



DR. HAYNES

At nearby Houston, rumor spread among Negroes that whites were planning to drive against them and whites were told that Negroes were making plans to attack them. With people jittery, two interracial commissions and members of the white and Negro chambers of commerce met promptly with the acting mayor and other officials.

They signed a full page advertisement in the leading newspaper, which said in part, "Loose talk helps Hitler. Baseless rumors about possible racial troubles are being circulated by loose tongues, thoughtless people . . ."

The people were assured that every rumor had been investigated by police, federal authorities, and well known citizens who found no basis for them.

The Detroit Rumor

In Detroit the Negro community was aroused by a rumor that a Negro woman and her child had been beaten by whites and drowned in the Detroit River. Among whites a story was told that three white girls with three service men were threatened with long knives by three Negroes who took the girls away and raped them.

In New York, rumor had it that a slightly wounded Negro soldier had been killed by a white policeman. In Washington, D. C., rumors of pending race conflict became so widespread that leaders of the Church Federation issued a statement branding them false and malicious.

The attitude of police and other law enforcement officers has great influence on race relations. From long experience with clubs and guns of the law, Negroes fear policemen. This fear often leads to clashes between officers and Negroes accused of crime.

The police of Detroit made a shameful record. Newspaper photographs show this and several white eye-witnesses testified that police stood by while rioting crowds beat Negroes until they fell senseless. It is admitted that 17 of 29 Negroes killed were shot by police and 85 per cent of the persons arrested were Negroes.

New York City police, however, during the recent outbreak in Harlem, were praised for their conduct by Negroes and more than a thousand Negro citizens served as volunteers on night patrol with white policemen.

"Jive And Jazz"

Another important factor in racial tensions and frictions is lack of adequate public services in segregated Negro districts. In Harlem, war conditions have increased the need for facilities for play and recreation for crowds frequenting places where "jive, jazz, and liquor" are substitutes.

An official of a local liquor dealers organization is reported to have said that the looted bars of Harlem were afterwards given five times as much whiskey as they would ordinarily get. Many of these places are owned by whites, and protests from Negro residents are usually ineffective.

In Detroit, for leisure hours, recreation opportunities in the segregated, congested Beaubian-Hastings district are almost nil; so Negroes crowd Belle Isle Park on Sundays and holidays.

In Beaumont and other southern cities Negroes are excluded from parks and playgrounds except in a few cities where they have segregated provision. The acute need before Pearl Harbor has been greatly increased as Negro soldiers from nearby camps visit Negro neighborhoods. Schools, hospitals and other public facilities in Negro communities are lacking or much below standard.

The activities of organizations known to harbor color prejudices have had their effect on tensions and conflicts. About two weeks before the riot in Detroit the imperial wizard of the Ku-Klux-Klan, Atlanta, Ga., is alleged to have admitted by telephone to a Detroit newspaper that he had active groups there.

At least six other organizations in that city have been publicly named as fostering racial tensions. However, the peaceful White-Negro relations in the UAW—CIO Unions were stabilizers during the riot. A White Supremacy League was launched in Birmingham in 1941.

Object To "Place"

On the other hand, Negroes have an increasing attitude of resistence to efforts of unthinking whites to "keep them in their place." Organizations for race rights and advancement have stimulated this attitude by conferences, mass meetings, publicity and other means of agitation.

Two widely published articles last year scored Negro newspapers and agitators for causing unrest. The critics overlooked the fact that economic and social conditions underlie the restlessness.

Newspapers have wielded much influence in the changing tides of group feeling and attitudes. For two periods in recent years certain New York newspapers carried on a publicity campaign that exaggerated crime in Harlem. Newspapers all over the nation still mention the race of Negroes and seldom that of other accused persons in reports of crimes.

Way To Harmony

How can we end racial strife and prevent tensions and conflicts? Here are some suggestions based upon long experience in many communities:

1. The problem of racial contacts should be a first concern of every American. Each individual should work positively and constructively, instead of being merely a spectator, wherever racial tensions arise and interracial justice or goodwill can be advanced. Each one can act in his daily experience on his own job, in his club, church or synagogue and community.

2. Those who decide to act should seek to join hands with other like-minded persons. In many communities there are already interracial committees, commissions, or fellowships. Where no interracial organization exists, strong leaders should begin to organize to meet emergencies, to correct bad conditions, to prevent unfair practices where they do not already operate, to stop rumors, to improve public services, and to secure the aid of all groups in cooperative action. Interested persons may ally themselves with the active national campaign now being carried on by several church organizations led by the Federal Council of Churches for a nation-wide enlistment to end these days of strife.

3. Any organized interracial group should include leaders of labor, of management, of civic, social and religious agencies, as well as patriotic citizens. They should have the confidence of their own group and be favorably known to the opposite racial group. Mutual interests now make cooperative action imperative.

4. Group meetings, whether or not there is a going organization, should be held to discuss plans and methods for each community where a number of citizens wish to take a hand. Some collection of information on minority groups and race relations should be made as a basis for such discussion. In communities where there is no apparent conflict, inquiry may discloses tensions wherever there are large numbers of Negroes, Mexicans, Orientals or Indians.

5. Recommendations should be worked out and made to the mayor of the city, to police officials and other public officers for their policies and action in changing basic conditions and for emergencies. Open outbreaks usually occur suddenly.

6. In places where clashes have already occurred, or where tensions are acute, steps should be taken as rapidly as possible to have meetings of important leaders or racial groups. Plans for conferences and larger meetings should be made where speakers with goodwill messages can allay fears and refute rumors and where plans for constructive work can be announced. Advertisements in the leading newspapers over signatures of community leaders should emphasize sanity, goodwill, and constructive action.

7. Whether employers or workers, local citizens can give strong support to help get the President's Executive Order against discrimination in industry and in government employment applied and enforced in their own areas.

8. White leaders who have unprejudiced attitudes and ability of leadership should take part in the work of minority racial organizations to bridge the isolated segregated life of these groups. Leaders from the Negro or other minority groups should be drawn into the general organizations for community welfare. Such penetration on matters of mutual interest will help to remove misunderstandings and suspicions, and to strengthen ties of the whole community.

9. Some means should be furthered in each community, either through a local social agency, a local federation or council of churches, or through the ministers' association or other groups to secure leaders in all the age groups of churches, social and civic agencies, who will serve as liaison for any central organization, its plans and program.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

The Pot and the Skillet

Among the most regrettable and reprehensible results of recent riots in the North is the readiness with which Southern newspapers almost gleefully claim that Northern communities have made a mess of race relations and that Southern communities have handled race conflicts with perfect results.

AUG 26 1943

Commenting upon the Harlem riot the Richmond Times Dispatch says: "Colored youths roved all over Harlem looting stores, most of them owned by colored people," which is so far from being the truth that it would be laughable if it were not so seriously absurd. And then the Richmond paper goes on to make fun of the suggestion that treatment of Negro soldiers in the South should have had something to do with the riot.

Another Richmond paper, the News Leader, sarcastically asks: "Has any Southern city made a worse mess of race relations than New York has?" Whether the answer were "yes" or "no," (it is a decided "YES") by what stretch of imagination can there come any satisfaction from the fact that New York is as black as Savannah, or Detroit is as mean as Mobile?

Mayor La Guardia, himself, was among the first to admit the terrible disgrace which New York had suffered because of the Harlem riots, but heaven help the benighted soul who is so ignorant that he does not know the difference between life for a Negro in New York and in Richmond. Negroes in New York hold all kinds of municipal jobs, and there never has been any discrimnation in the matter of salaries for Negro employees. The Negro school teachers in Virginia have had to suffer the tortures of the damned to get equality in pay, to say nothing of the hundreds of jobs that are denied to Negroes simply because they are Negroes.

Certainly there is discrimination in New York; it has always existed, but there is no denying that much of it has been encouraged and increased by Southerners, who when in the South, insist that outsiders, meaning people from the North should not meddle with the social pattern. Racial injustice all over the nation is to the North feela disgrace to America, and nothing is to enforce theirbe gained by the pot calling the skillet black, especially if the not is blacker.

How Cleveland Nipped A Race Riot in Bud

The Worker
New York, N.

By Sig. Wenger
(Special to The Worker)

CLEVELAND.—Race riots make good front-page headlines, especially for the defeatist press which doesn't bother to report examples of people's unity and cool-headedness. But Cleveland has produced just such a story.

For the past several weeks, fifth column elements here have been working feverishly to incite a repetition of the Detroit race riots. But due to the vigilance of Mayor Lausche, the aggressive stand taken by the trade unions, notably the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and the UAW Fisher Body local, the cooperation of Negro and white leaders and the cool determination of the people in the face of a myriad of rumors, not a single incident has been reported and the rumors have been exposed as defeatist propaganda.

A vivid description of the provocative rumor campaign which reached its height during the July 4th week-end and how the people of Cleveland reacted to the fifth column propaganda appears in the current issue of the Cleveland Call and Post, leading Negro newspaper in Ohio.

The story by reporter Chas. H. Loeb, which follows in part was titled "White and Negro Leaders, and Lawness of Citizenry."

"White and Negro leaders, and law enforcement officials of Cleveland, after spending one of the most jittery week-ends in the city's history, sighed deep sighs of relief at the close of the July 4th observance, and settled down again to the task of adding strength to the highly developed interracial ties that have been in the making here since the days of the old Western Reserve.

JUL 17 1943

RUMOR MONGERS

"The rumor mongers began their Cleveland campaign well in advance of the 4th. Throughout the Negro areas, springing from nowhere, came the rumor that the troops stationed at the Country Club grounds, were there primarily for the purpose of swarming down upon the Negro section at the first signs of a racial clash.

"Early Sunday morning, spreading like wildfire throughout the Negro sectors, the rumor ran. 'I heard over the radio that Negroes had better stay away from Euclid Beach Park for gangs of whites out there are determined to get them.' As the day grew older the same story was repeated by guillible rumor spreaders with the words Garfield Park, Gordon Park, and other points of congregation substituted for Euclid Beach.

"At various intervals came reports like 'whites and Negroes are having trouble at Gordon Park.' 'Police are openly displaying their machine guns as they ride through the Negro districts.'

JUL 17 1943

UNFOUNDED CLAIMS

"Keeping in close touch with the situation by constant contact with the Mayor's office, the hospitals, precinct stations and the city jail, the Call-Post staff methodically traced down each fresh rumor to find it without foundation. . . .

"Some of the reports, however, were true. The Cleveland police department, one of the nation's finest, was ready for any eventuality. Safety Director Celebrezze and Police Chief Matowitz, whose phones too, were swamped with calls, assigned police to every spot of congregation, and kept 24-hour vigilance over all areas likely to be affected by the rapidly growing tension.

"Monday evening and night brought the final test, when some 200,000 citizens, Negro and white, of all national origins, lined both sides of Euclid Avenue, and vociferously cheered the almost endless ranks of marching units headed for the gigantic lakefront stadium for the Festival of Freedom.

"Even in connection with this highly patriotic event, the rumor-mongers found material for disruption and unrest. It was variously reported that Negro units had been systematically eliminated from the program . . . that Negro troops were not brought into the city for fear they might take sides with Negroes in the event of a riot . . . that the program officials had voted against the inclusion of Negro units.

COMMITTEE EXPLAINS

"None of these stories had foundation in truth. Committee officials stated that the majority of troops in the parade were stationed at Camp Perry, where there are few, if any, Negro troops. The American Legion, one of the city's uniformed civilian organizations, disclosed that most of their membership was attending the State Veterans' Convention. One Negro unit, the Cedar Unit of the American Women's Volunteer Services, which participated in the Festival, did not choose to march.

"Viewing the cool-headedness which characterized the majority of the citizenry, white and Negro, Mayor Frank J. Lausche, Wednesday declared:

JUL 17 1943

"'We must not listen to rumors. They are distorted as they spread. I am pleased with the way Cleveland has acted through this whole matter. Now that we have come through the critical period, let's get started on a permanent plan'."

TOWN MEETING

Win-the-war leaders here, Negro and white, with prominent trade union representation, are continuing their offensive for all-out national unity. Representatives of the Cleveland Industrial Union Council, the Cleveland Federation of Labor, the American Youth for a Free World, the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met here this week to plan a United Victory Town Meeting for Sunday, Aug. 1, at the Cleveland Public Auditorium.

JUL 17 1943

The Committee agreed that:

"We must mobilize the people for a better racial understanding and to unify all Americans in order to win victory for democracy.

"We must avoid the trap of disunity and keep the tanks and guns and planes flowing without interruption from the assembly lines or the home fronts.

"We must oppose and destroy those 'lose-the-war' elements which seek to undermine and disrupt the unity of the American people."

Invited to appear on the program are Mayor Lausche, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Mr. George Siegal of the Fair Employment Practice Committee, the Rev. Horace White of Detroit, William Davy, executive secretary of the Cleveland Industrial Union Council; Thomas Lenehan, secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor; Rabbi Barnett Bricker, and Judge Jerry Jackson.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Boston Rallies Against Race Riots Sunday

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BOSTON, July 9. — A gigantic mass meeting of Negro and white people in Boston Arena seating ten thousand will be held this Sunday July 11 at 3 P.M., under the slogan "Inter-racial unity for victory."

JUL 10 1943

Speakers include Richard Frankensteen, vice president of the United Auto Workers; Frederick May Eliot, president, American Unitarian Association; Walter White, executive secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Harry Grages, Boston Central Labor Union; Joseph Salerno, president, Massachusetts CIO.

Cab Calloway and his orchestra will entertain. This meeting is Boston's answer to fifth column racial provocations in Detroit, and is aimed to head off similar provocations in this city. Sponsoring organizations include: Massachusetts Council of Churches; American Jewish Congress; Women's Trade Union League; State CIO; Civil Liberties Committee; New England NAACP; Union for Democratic Action; and prominent citizens including Prof. Ralph Barton Perry, the Rev. [illegible] Dean Vaughn Dabney, the Rev. Angus Dun, Dean Howard Lesourd, Louis C. Bartol, Prof. Ernest Mooton, Alexander Brin, Dr. Samuel Lindsay and others.

JUL 10 1943

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Racial Tension Still Mounting

Evansville, Ind., and Cleveland, O., Latest Cities Hit by Mob Fury Conflicts

Racial tension in industrial and military areas continued to mount this week.

JUN 3 1943

In Cleveland two [illegible] engineers were sent to the hospital with serious injuries and a third man was hurt when rioting broke out in the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company's Hubbard Blast Furance. Trouble was caused by the discharge of three Negro employees, and sheriff and deputies were required to restore order.

JUN 3 1943

At the Republic Steel Corporation also in Cleveland, 50 Negroes went on strike after one had been tossed bodily out of a locker room used exclusively by whites. By the third shift 100 had refused to go to work. Police remained on guard all night.

Out of Bound Town

Evansville, Ind., was declared out of bounds after several soldiers were beaten by Negroes and a Negro and white soldier were reported to have fired at each other. An Army paratroop lieutenant was injured in a fight and military police patrolled the streets to enforce order.

JUN 30 1943

Alertness In Buffalo

In New York State steps were being taken to avoid racial clashes. The Greater Buffalo Industrial Union Council, CIO is mobilizing Negro and white groups in a community wide effort to prevent difficulties among Buffalo's 570,000 wartime population of which 13,000 are Negroes.

JUN 3 1943

Anti-Riot Pill Is Prepared By White 'Advisers'

Urge Roosevelt To Deliver Some Fireside Chats

BY ERNEST E. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(A N P)—A white brain trust on Negro affairs has gotten together on a set of ideas which they conclude would be effective in handling racial outbreaks. According to an unimpeachable source. The individuals must remain unidentified.

JUL 18 1943

It may be reported, however, that a high official in the FEPC had requested the department of justice to investigate causes of Detroit rioting. The report cited crowded housing, crowded transportation facilities, inadequate recreational facilities, footloose youth police race prejudice, economic fears and lack of local leadership as causes.

Reccmmendations included (1) Fireside chats; (2) That the governor of Michigan appoint a committee to probe the Detroit Police department; (3) appointment of a non-governmental agency with private funds to hold hearings and prepare reports in and about tension areas.

JUL 18 1943

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

DOXIE WILKERSON ASKS LITTLE PEOPLE TO STOP RACE RIOTS

Noted Educator Makes First Address Since Joining Communist Party

WASHINGTON, July 8—(ANP)—Making his initial address as a member of the Communist party, Doxey A. Wilkerson, former professor, Howard university professor, Sun-day night called upon the people" of America to speak out quickly to stop the race riots and other "pro-axis attacks upon our war effort." The address, over radio station WNX, was delivered by Mr. Wilkerson [illegible] the Home Front," [illegible] "The race riots now breaking said, includes the John Lewis strike, congressional attempts to destroy OPA, OWI and unfortunate expressions and traditional race prejudices. NRPB; and passage of the anti-riots are one of Hitler's labor Smith-Connally bill. All. dangerous weapons on the [illegible] our country are much mine [illegible] over our country in the war on the part forces within the country. [illegible] enemies. They are part and Mr. Wilkerson called for "an of an even larger conspira- unfortunate tempts to act quickly to tional race prejudices. of the anti- [illegible] of Hitler's labor Smith- [illegible] from internal attack. He urged that the [illegible] our country against the "larger conspiracy," he organization and individual citizens demand: (1) full support of

JUL 23 1943

...Roosevelt's win-the-war program, (2) investigation and prosecution of race riot instigators by the attorney general, (3) passage of a federal civil rights bill, (4) repeal of the poll tax, (5) repeal of the infamous Smith-Connaly bill", and (6) a strong and vital FEPC.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Race Riots Cut Output For War

JUL 7 1943

NEW YORK, July 1. — Iron Age, steel trade publication, said today that with May output equal to an annual volume rate of $8,220,000,000, the automobile industry "is well along toward the ten-to-twelve-billion-dollar annual rates figured as its practical capacity, but advances from here on may be difficult to achieve."

The publication said that recent race rioting cost a quarter or a third of a day's production for every plant in the Detroit area, "and widespread absences resulted in an even greater proportion of output loss."

Race tension at Detroit, Beaumont and other cities, Iron Age commented, "plays a part, significant though small, in the national war-production effort." It added that that the automotive community "was rather surprised at the statement of Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson that arms output had fallen 3.5 per cent in May from April, even though similar statements had previously been made privately."

JUL 7 1943

Racial Conflict

BY ROBERT QUILLEN

This may seem much ado about nothing, but it isn't. It is the story of a picture—a photograph of a white man attacking a Negro during the Detroit riots. Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald

Colliers used the picture to help illustrate an article by Walter Davenport, entitled "Race Riots Coming." It is a remarkable action picture"—the kind news photographers pray for but seldom get. It has been distributed all over the world. October 1, 1943

After telling how much it has helped the Negro cause, the Colliers article describes it as follows: "The photograph of the Negro with his arms being held by two policemen while he was being struck in the face by a white hoodlum, and a mounted cop watched."

Now that description would give any ordinary reader a mental picture of two burly cops holding a struggling Negro helpless so a white bully could beat him up without risk, while a third cop on a horse looked on with approval and thus shared the guilt.

Doubtless you have seen the picture. If not, please examine it carefully now. It shows a split second of arrested action—a momentary fragment of drama—yet it makes the whole story unmistakably clear.

A tall, middle-aged, very erect Negro with strong Roman features is walking in the middle of the street between two policemen. In the background and at one side appear 10 white men and two white women, evidently part of a crowd walking to keep up with the excitement.

The policeman on the Negro's left, though walking forward, has turned slightly toward the Negro in order to look behind him at the crowd. He has reached over with his left hand and placed it lightly on the Negro's upper arm. The fingers are not closed. His right arm, the one nearest the Negro, is hanging down.

The policeman walking at the Negro's right is not touching him at all. His hands, with palms forward, are lifted in the act of warding off an assailant.

This assailant, a white man whose class is obvious, is not attacking the policeman. He has darted from the crowd to attack the Negro. The camera caught him in the act, just as his open hand struck the Negro's jaw.

The mounted cop, riding guard close behind the officers, is not watching this action. He has turned his head slightly to the right and apparently is watching another white man who is drawing too close.

The Negro's hands and arms are free. Given a moment more, he could have warded off the blow. In fact, he is raising his left hand, apparently for that purpose.

The policemen are not holding him "while he is being struck." They are quite obviously getting him away from the crowd. Whether it was an arrest or a rescue, they are clearly trying to protect the Negro.

The Colliers interpretation of the picture is untrue and unfair. And that kind of reporting is responsible for much of the bitterness that causes race riots.

JUL 1943

NEW TECHNIQUE TO CATCH RIOTERS

Bystander

During the recent race riots in Detroit, energetic newspaper photographers took many pictures showing activities of those engaged in the mobs.

Des Moines, Iowa

One picture printed in many newspapers showed a Negro victim being escorted between two white policemen and a member of the mob striking him in the face while his arms were held by the officers.

The picture brought much criticism to the police officers for it was assumed that since the victim was held helpless, they should have kept the hoodlums at bay. However, we have no means of knowing exactly what happened immediately thereafter. But we do know that with the aid of the photograph, police officers tracked the man down, hailed him into court and upon conviction he was sentenced to a term of 90 days in jail.

JUL 1943

This incident gives us an idea. Heretofore, it has been extremely difficult to convict members of mobs because nobody has been willing to go on the stand and identify them. But in this day and age of highly developed photography and the daring job news men do to get real action pictures, we are going to have some photographs of those who take part in the mobs which will be of material benefit to law enforcing officials in gathering evidence. Photos will take the props from under those who wink at the mobs and later say they can get no evidence.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

PLAIN TALK

And now they know. For Los Angeles, Mobile, Beaumont and Detroit have spoken more eloquently than all the high-sounding, vainglorious words about the Four Freedoms and liberty and equality that since Pearl Harbor have been shouted from these shores. The millions of India know and the brown people of the Southwest Pacific know and the blacks of Africa know that America's protestations of democracy are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, and that oppression and persecution because of race and color may be found not only under the swastika of Nazi Germany but under the stars and stripes. And they will have a clearer idea of the perspective which America will bring to the Peace table and to the aspirations for freedom and equality of the non-white peoples of the world.

JUL 1 1943

We who are American citizens of African descent, we didn't lose at Detroit as much as America lost. It is true that the number of our dead and dying is greater by far than that of our attackers who were evidently aided and abetted by officers of the law sworn to protect the lives and property of the citizens no matter what their race or color. But we lost no prestige; we lost no respect; we lost no honor. But America lost and the measure of her loss is incalculable. For to the ends of the earth wherever there are men and women who are oppressed and who yearn for freedom, wherever there are those who possess skins that are dark, and they are numbered in countless millions, the luster of America's name will be tarnished and faith in the American democracy will begin to ebb. For what can America tell Great Britain of India! And how can America condemn the ruthlessness of Japan. America which sprinkles the pavements of her cities with the blood of citizens whose only offense is the color of their skin.

JUL 1 1943

In the face of the pogrom at Detroit and the increasing boldness of those elements of the population intent on depriving the Negro of his rights as a citizen by threats, intimidation and mass murder, the silence of the President of the United States is as strange as it is disturbing. His is the only voice that can stay a repetition of Detroit in a half-dozen American cities including the city of Washington where racial tension is at the breaking point. And it cannot be expected that Negroes will supinely submit to these unbridled and unchecked attacks on their person and their property.

JUL 1 1943

Great caution is being exerted by the federal government to keep accounts of the racial disturbances in American cities from Negro soldiers on the fighting fronts. But there is no way on earth to completely suppress the news, and unless there are assurances from those high in authority that the Negro at home will be protected by his government, there is grave and immediate danger that the bitterness and resentment of colored citizens in America will find expression in the ranks of colored soldiers who now face the enemy across the seas. For how can one fight an enemy abroad when he fears for his kinsmen at home knowing them to be at the mercy of enemies just as savage and brutal as the Germans or the Italians or the Japanese.

JUL 1 1943

The Japanese radio is probably bristling with accounts of the race terror in America. And it won't make the task of the American forces in the Southwest Pacific any easier. In a score of native tongues and dialects the Japanese propaganda machine is probably broadcasting with suitable dressing-up the bloody story of Detroit, pointing ridicule at America's pretensions of democracy, sowing the seeds of distrust and hate among 30,000,000 brown men and women who are in the patch of America's armed forces.

JUL 1 1943

It may well be that Detroit's greatest contribution to the war effort is to make it enormously difficult if not impossible for America to conquer Japan. And that would indeed be a high price to pay for racial prejudice—governmental apathy and incompetence and moral cowardice.

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

WHITEWASH FOR RACE RIOTS

SEP 26 1943

Problems springing from racial tension are not to be solved by such whitewashing as that indulged in by the Governor of Michigan's fact-finding committee concerning the Detroit riots of June 20-21.

The very make-up of this committee was enough to make its findings suspect from the start. It consisted of the State Attorney General, be county prosecutor, the police commissioner and the head of the State Police. These are the key officials charged with law enforcement. To ask them to sift the causes of an outbreak that got beyond police control was absurd on the face of it.

They come up with the less-than-sensational conclusion that the riots were not instigated by enemy agents nor were they planned in advance. They lay the main blame upon the circulation of false rumors, the actions of Negro hoodlums and the inflammatory statements of certain Negro leaders and publishers.

Hoodlumism feeds upon race riots, of course, as it does upon any public disturbance that temporarily nullifies police authority. But it is not fair to bear down on Negro hoodlums alone. Nor is it just to condemn as "inflammatory" Negro pleas for the equality which is their Constitutional right.

It is childish to blame false rumors for racial outbreaks an dignore the underlying grievances that make almost off the waiting gunpowder of violence.

Instead of such generalities as "determined, straightforward, sociological measures," the committee ought to urge practicable means of combating riot-provoking rumors. An emergency committee of Negro leaders trusted by their fellows, who could dispose of false reports as quickly as they are started, would be helpful.

So would inter-racial agencies to which specific grievances could be submitted. So would a police policy with respect to Negroes that would remove from these people the conviction that for a decent, honorable treatment of all policemen are their natural enemies. our fellow humans, with justice for all—

Above all, the basic need, if we are for ADL.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

to live together in peace regardless of race or color or creed, if tiny sparks of nasty rumor are not to set American against American in bloody battle, is

61-1943

Pursuit Of Democracy

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Mr. President, We Waited In Vain to Hear One Word From You About the Riots

BY MARJORIE McKENZIE

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We waited in vain for just one sentence in your report to the nation last week. One word suggesting your concern over the recent riots and present racial tension would have sufficed. We listened to every turn of phrase, every inflection of your voice with breathless concentration, waiting for that sentence, that word. As always, your speech was long. We sat, millions of us, huddled around our radios, or stood knotted on street corners in every black ghetto, north and south — waiting. Once or twice, in the whole long recital, we began to relax, nodded and smiled to each other and said: "Ah, now he will say it." A statement and a prayer, so fierce, so urgent, that the compulsion within you, born of the combined wills of us all bending you to our necessity, forcing you to say what we must hear, must surely have been a terrible tide to resist. We were taut with the strain of our waiting, but you did not say what we waited to hear.



Miss McKenzie

RUMOR REFERENCE TO RIOT DELETED

The loss in terms of faith and morale and unity resulting from this omission is, of course, irretrievable. There can be no making it up to us two weeks from now, nor at any time. When you broke your long silence, you had to say it then. We know it has been on your mind, because we have sent you hundreds of telegrams of protest and demand for action. We know that you have conferred with the government officials who are responsible, not only for the investigation of these incidents occurring as they have among soldiers and civilians alike, but also for the prosecution of the perpetrators.

WE HAVE heard that there was a paragraph in your speech about the riots and that it was deleted at the last minute. No doubt, one of your advisers thought that the deletion would represent a good, middle-of-the-road attitude. If it was the adviser we think it was, that professional Southerner who boasts that he can bind the South more closely to you, aside and woo the Negro, too, then he shall regret his shallow, stupid opportunism.

CAN'T COMPROMISE GOOD AND EVIL

To gloss over these riots, which are tearing our war ideology asunder before the eyes of the world, is about as impartial an act as your disposition of the Wallace-Jones feud. It is not possible to compromise good and evil in like measure. To say nothing of our most serious internal disturbance is to say by implication, "Oh, the riots, they are not part of this closely knit battle and home front co-ordination I am talking about; have fun, boys."

OF COURSE, we really know that you do not think that way at all. We remember the time you saved the mule of that poor Mississippi Negro sharecropper. We have not forgotten all of the Negro babies whose chances of life and health have been increased tenfold as a result of Social Security grants-in-aid. We have benefited from the whole public works, public welfare, social insurance, non-discrimination program of the New Deal. We needed this assistance and we are grateful. We have demonstrated also that, given half a chance, we can manage our own affairs without benevolent paternalism. We have confidence in ourselves and our rights. The love of freedom stirs deep within us; freedom to think, to act, to forget to be grateful, to change.

WE HAVE FAITH IN THE PRESIDENT

That is the tragedy of your omission. Freedom has a heady quality; power shakes all men, as perhaps you know. We may forget that our freedom is the freedom of labor, of the control of power, of the strength of the liberal tradition. If, periodically, we are made spiritual outcasts, wandering from loyalty to loyalty, we shall certainly forget and our forgetting will be common disaster for us for all that you believe in.

THE IMPERATIVES of the situation are not as involved nor as politically inexpedient as the tortured and confused minds of your cautious advisers seemingly have made you think they are. The imperatives are the plain and just words and acts that your own impulse and inclination would lead you to say and do. It is later than you think and much ground has been lost, but it may not be too late. We are simple people and we are of the uncomplicated opinion that the President of the United States in time of war can do and say as he pleases.

Sincerely yours,

MARJORIE McKENZIE

RACE RIOTS

Courier

Due Primarily to Our Philosophy of Racialism And Tradition of Violence

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Pittsburgh, Pa.

TO ACCOUNT for the recent race riots by calling them the work of enemy agents alone is a dangerous over-simplification. It is an over-simplification because we've had race riots when we haven't had enemy agents at work in the country. There were race riots after the last war which swept the country, and they could not have been provoked by enemy agent provocateurs. We've also had race riots in between wars. Riots result from the stresses and strains of the society during periods of social upheaval and rapid change. During these periods familiar patterns of interracial behavior break down; fears develop in the dominant group that their preferential position will be challenged, while the hopes and aspirations of the subordinate group develop. Wars, because they shuffle our institutions and traditional methods of doing things, make riots more probable than at any other time.



Mr. Cayton

A TRADITION OF VIOLENCE

It should be constantly borne in mind, however, that we have a heritage of violence. Lynching and rioting are as American as ham and eggs. It should also be borne in mind that we have two divergent and contradictory streams of thought in our culture. On one hand, we have the Jeffersonian democratic ideal which constitutes the hope of America. On the other hand, we have racialism in its most intense form, which is often directed against non-white groups, and especially against the Negro.

VIOLENCE is our traditional method of maintaining the subordination of minority groups towards which we have prejudice. My thesis is that these race riots are due primarily to our philosophy of racialism and our tradition of violence more than to the activities of enemy agents.

SOCIETY CHALLENGES RACIAL TRADITION

Let's look into a few cases. The riots in Los Angeles were between the Mexicans and members of our own armed forces. It would be foolish to say that the sailors on the Pacific Coast have been agitated by enemy agents. They were acting in the usual way that white Americans act when they don't like—and wish to subordinate—a minority group; wish to put them in their place.

IN Detroit, the Ku Klux Klan—which is certainly an American product—was the most powerful factor in fomenting that riot. Of course there are Bundists, and there probably has been some agitation by enemy agents, but I don't think that it amounts to much. The fact is that society is changing so rapidly toward the side of democracy, it is challenging our racialist tradition.

RIOTERS BELIEVE THEY ARE PATRIOTIC

I think to lay the blame for all riots on enemy agents is dangerous and unwise. This is so because it allows people to blame the enemy and their subversive agents, and escape the reality that America itself has sanctioned violence as a method of subordinating people throughout its history. If these riots were the work of enemy agents, the FBI could pick them up and deport them rather easily. The question isn't that simple. It's America itself that has a split soul, and it is the warring of these two currents in our culture that causes the conflict.

OF course, it's perfectly proper to say that these groups are doing the work of Hitler and Hirohiti. They are also Fifth Columnists, as they give aid and comfort to the enemy. However, many of the white rioters have sons and relatives in the armed forces and believe themselves to be intensely patriotic. If questioned, they would, I am sure, state that they hated the Japanese and Germany, and expected to conquer these countries. In many instances they are the "good old American stock." That is the problem: the dominant white Americans—not a few saboteurs.

PM
New York, N. Y.

The Tragic Martin Dies

Dear Editor:

All Negroes are as anxious as they can be for an investigation to be made of the causes of the race riots and for the intelligent planning of measures to ease the tensions and to alleviate the conditions. We think that it is nothing short of criminal for our Government to maintain a do-nothing policy in this situation. However, there is one approach that is just as bad—and in some ways worse—than doing nothing, and that is to let Martin Dies handle such an investigation.

Already, Mr. Dies has indicated the unscientific nature of his investigations when he starts out with the preconceived notion that "races have been coddled by the politically minded people in this country who ignore the vast differences between the protection and coddling of a race." For Mr. Dies' information, Negroes desire no protection other than that accorded any citizen of a democracy, and we most definitely have received no coddling.

In about a hundred years when the world, we hope, will have come nearer to real civilization, Mr. Dies will be a pathetically funny figure who will draw the disgusted snickers of the high school history crowd, but today Martin Dies is not funny—he's tragic and he's dangerous.

New York LAURA E. CHASE

Bee ([redacted])
Chicago, Ill.

Willkie Hits Riots in Radio Talk Over NBC

Wendell Willkie, in a radio talk over the NBC network, warned the United States that the recent race riots are looked upon by our allies as a sign of racial arrogance and intolerance on our part, which will sooner or later affect our relation to the United States.

He stated further that "Our ability to help make this world in which there can be peace and order depends as much on how we live up to our proclaimed ideals, as on the strength of our arms. It depends also upon our ability to understand and differ from us in race and color. They do not stand the other peoples of the world."

Willkie is asking for a closer co-operation with an understanding of Russia, and predicts that Russia and the U.S.A. will be the two strongest nations of the world in the post-war period.

WHITE MAN'S WORLD

Desire to Rule World With Iron Hand Underlies Race Riots and Strife

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

THE white man has no fee-simple to the entire earth, and it seems to be written in the stars that he and his heirs shall not forever inherit the hemisphere, the oceans and the atmosphere. From what goes on in the world today, it seems that eventually he must concede living space and certain other inalienable rights to the teeming hordes of darker races who so overwhelmingly outnumber him. There is nothing apparent, nevertheless, in the trend of the times to show that the white man has any serious intention of "liquidating his empires" and conveying and surrendering a joint tenancy, a tenancy in common, or even a lease-hold interest in the earth to the darker races. His activities and utterances must by now have convinced the darker races of his ultimate intentions. From all indications, the white man seems to be hell-bent on maintaining his supremacy and suppressing his sombre-shaded brothers. Therefore no permanent and lasting peace seems imminent in the immediate future.



Mr. Bibb

RESENT BENEFITS WON FROM WAR

Chinese exclusion laws in the Americas, sub-infeudation in Africa, tyranny in India, hypocrisy in the Pacific Islands, riots, pillage and carnage in the United States, precipitated by the intemperate arrogance and superciliousness of the white man, reveal that he is firmly convinced that this is a white man's world.

HERE in the United States, he seems to resent the small liberties and benefits that have accrued to the colored people by virtue of the war—even though they are being paid for with toil, tears and blood. During the latter days of the year of 1919, your correspondent wrote an editorial labeled "Who's Afraid?"

That was shortly after the infamous Chicago riots. The article was reproduced in many of the leading white publications of the day. We posed the question as to why the white man should fear that his domination and supremacy could be seriously challenged if he was so sure that he was the "salt of the earth" and the heir apparent to the solar system. We wanted to know just why he feared the "yellow peril," the "rising tide of color," if he was innately superior and omnipotent?

DURING those days, the colored people of this country were set upon in Washington, in New York, in Omaha and Chicago. They were humiliated and beaten indiscriminately in the South. It was difficult for us to conceive of the white man standing in trembling fear of usurpation in the light of his vaunted superiority in all things. It was also perceived that colored Americans were only armed with sticks and stones and were outnumbered 10 to 1. There was no Naxism nor Fascism then—but the Ku Klux Klan rose up and burned its fiery crosses just as it has in Detroit.

DIES COMMITTEE KEEPS SILENT

There were no so-called "Axis agents" working among the white Americans, no "Fifth Columns," and no one reported any plots to overthrow the Government. The present race riots have been fomenting for sometime, and it has been broadcast all over the land that Ku Kluxers were riding again, but the Dies committee has made no reports about it, nor has it discerned any fifth column activities stirring up race hatred.

IT HAS been a matter of common knowledge that Southern whites and Northern renegades have arrayed themselves against the colored people and have avowed and declared that they should not pass. Governors of Alabama, Louisiana and Georgia have made themselves explicit on that point. Senators and Representatives have echoed the rebel in Washington and have made it unequivocal that they deemed this a white man's country. Number One men in all parts of the Government, and even leaders in the military forces, have, by precept and example, with insolence, proclaimed that this is a "White Man's World!"

NEGROES NOT BLAMELESS FOR RACE RIOTING

These attitudes are the proximate causes of racial frictions. The white man has not shown willingness to give the members of the darker races an equitable deal. In the same breath, this writer does not hold the colored people entirely without blame. They have had no sense of the fitness of things. They have too many times been either sniveling, cringing cowards, or bumptious, swaggering cowards. Too many colored people have engaged the belligerent and insulting whites by their "peace at any price" propaganda, or they have, on the other hand, offended their well-wishers by repulsive, nauseating conduct. The white man has definite right and perogatives that the colored people are bound to respect.

THIS writer has consistently condemned the offensive, unlettered elements of colored people who have been the targets of resentment. But in all fairness, the colored people have done nothing to precipitate race rioting. These unfortunate people are the victims of the consuming ambitions and obsessions of the white man to rule the world. These obsessions and ambitions have been demonstrated in the armed forces, in the war plants, and even in the shack and shambles where the colored people live. It seems that no plane of parity or equality for them is to be tolerated.

HOW WILL THE MIGHTY FALL?

The white man's dream of continued domination of the far-flung dominions of the earth will turn into a nightmare. The world by now knows that the race war, in the land of democracy, only knows that some Americans stopped in the middle of the war against Hitler and Tojo, to attack the black people who are fighting by their sides.

SOME men from places near Lidice led th the carnage and pillage in Detroit. Some day the worm will turn and the oppressed darker people of the earth will unite and overthrow the white man, if he does not learn to live in peace with other people. The "beauty of Israel will be slain of the high places, how will the mighty fall."

Predict More Riots Unless Government Acts At Once

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

New York.—Both blacks and whites have chips on shoulder, says Collier's, whose survey shows neither federal nor local governments have taken preventive measures.

There will be more race riots because neither federal nor local governments have done anything to correct the immediate or underlying causes of the recent disastrous uprisings which cost human lives in widely separated parts of the United States, Walter Davenport states in the current issue of Collier's Weekly.

"We are going to have more race riots," writes Davenport in a thorough discussion of their causes and what they portend. "Any nation as insistent upon warfare between its blacks and whites as we are, is certain to succeed. It is quite clear that both races still have chips on their shoulders and that each will continue to knock off the other's with bloody results unless the government ceases soon to avoid the issue."

Davenport, whose article is based on personal investigation as well as information supplied by governors and Collier's representatives in all parts of the country, states that "neither federal nor local government, north or south, has done anything to remove the fundamental causes for race riots or to correct any of the conditions that generate them.

"Their immediate causes are well known; the refusal of northern Negro soldiers to observe the unwritten race restrictions of the southern towns, the housing atrocities, the rising Negro resentment against economic discriminations real and fancied, the increasing white resentment of the black man's invasion in force of industrial employment which was once all the white man's and of the threat the latter sees therein to his postwar security.

"The blows and shots which touched off the riots in Alexandria, Louisiana; in Beaumont, Texas; in Detroit and in New York's Harlem bear the same relation to their fundamental causes as Pearl Harbor had to our war with Japan. They were only sparks from an overcharged situation."

Davenport finds that Negro servicemen are as resentful of what they regard as discrimination in military promotions as colored industrial workers are of their treatment by certain employers. An "inflammatory Negro press" and agitators have contributed to the racial disturbances, says Davenport. He quotes one governor who wishes his name withheld as saying:

"The principal trouble is that a lot of misguided people who do not understand the Negro are doing him a great injustice by urging him to take advantage of the war period to demand social equality."

Governors in such Southern states as the Carolinas, Virginia, Alabama and Tennessee do not expect any inter-racial disturbances and here, in the opinion of Governor Olin D. Johnson of South Carolina, is why:

"We do not intend to mix the races in our state, and the only way to handle this race question is by segregation of the races. As long as Northern states allow white and colored children to attend the same schools, the same churches, and the same eating places, they will always have trouble between the races."

Colliers' correspondents in various sections of the country report widespread ill-feeling and several potentially dangerous situations. From Miami, Florida, we learn that "there is definite trouble brewing between the blacks and the whites," says Davenport, who adds:

"Los Angeles and San Francisco report negro rebellion against Jim Crow labor union locals, against slum life, against exclusion from theaters, bowling alleys, restaurants, skating rinks and so on.

"St. Louis is cursed with rumors of Negro and anti-Negro plots.

Our Dallas (Texas) correspondent assures us that the Negro has no intention of returning to his prewar low economic estate if he can avoid it. Negro leaders, he says, are demanding immediate racial equality in schools and housing.

"From Jackson, Mississippi, and other parts of the south, we hear that Negro women are leaving their jobs in white kitchens, not for war industry but to loaf.

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

HOOVER DENOUNCES RIOTS AS "NATIONAL DISGRACE"

SEP 23 1943

DETROIT, Mich.—Civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, told the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police here.

SEP 23 1943

Hoover called upon police officers to recognize their responsibility for law enforcement and to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace in the case of such outbreaks. Such disturbances, he said, are "a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans that altercations between individuals can touch off community-wide conflagrations, which are often seized upon, by young teen-age hoodlums, of both sexes, to indulge in depredations of all kinds against property and persons."

SEP 23 1943

"for political reasons, local authorities in Detroit and elsewhere are not eager to send rioters to prison." Although the federal government has power, when local authorities are reluctant to act, to intervene and impose prison terms of one to ten years and fines of from $1,000 to $5,000 for race rioting."

"Maybe it's just an impractical idea, but a few sentences like that might take a lot of oomph out of reseponsible elements in Detroit and other race-riot localities."

"The situation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is 'complicated,' says Davenport who found that

I WRITE AS I SEE

JUL 3 1943
Philadelphia Tribune

BY ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET

'TIS AN ILL WIND, ETC.

TERRIBLE as the riots are, they are not without their saving grace. They will accomplish in a short time what otherwise it would take years of effort to do in the way of bringing Negro people together in a common cause, and compelling them to see their common responsibility. To a lesser degree this will be true of the whites also.

JUL 3 1943



FAUSET

The riots bring home to all Americans that you cannot separate our country into white and black; that what affects one is bound to react on the other; that to neglect Negroes by isolating them in ghettos, etc., will not do; the danger to the entire commonwealth is real and constant. Booker Washington saw this a half century ago, but America is only slowly catching up with him. The riots bring home his point with emphasis.

JUL 3 1943
Philadelphia Tribune

GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS TO RACE PROGRESS

Few Negroes have noted the geographic barriers to our own unity and cooperation. All of us, of course, remark the distinctions between North and South; there is too much of this in fact. But rarely has it been noted that New York Negroes are little interested in the welfare of Philadelphia Negroes, or that both have less interest in Detroiters, and that all three see little connection between themselves and Tampa or Meridian.

We American Negroes are not a "nation" in any sense of the term. Outside the small domains of the lives of most of us, our relations from place to place are almost entirely social. As a united group, nationwide, we are not engaged in any concerted activity, such as, for example, a fund to help win the war, a free Africa movement, National Negro Committee Against Fascism, etc.

If you will look into the activities of Jews, Poles, Italians, and other national groups in our midst, you will find that they are bound together by strong ties of interest which transcend the purely social tie. They sense that the entire group is affected by anything which affects any part of them. A cultural tradition hews out a path of action in which the entire group participates.

OUR INTERESTS MUST BE JOINED

JUL 3 1943

If a drive for a huge hospital project is launched in Philadelphia, does this become the concern of Negroes in Washington, Seattle, Chicago? Do Negroes in New York take more than passing interest in the achievement of Boston Negroes to break down a barrier, for example, in the USO situation? Does Philadelphia lend its interest, energies, time and money to efforts going on in Wilmington, Chester, Camden, Trenton, and Atlantic City, where these affect the lives of Negroes?

The geographical factor in the disposition of Negroes in our country and in given localities presents a graver difficulty than most of us have hitherto recognized. It is hard to feel for someone you cannot see, even if the fate of that someone is inextricably bound up in your own. It is a truism that the Negroes of Harlem and the South Side of Chicago can get things accomplished far more rapidly than Negroes in Philadelphia because the population is concentrated in the first named cities, but in Philadelphia the Negro population is scattered. To a degree even more serious in its consequences, the American Negro is scattered in rather isolated groups in a dozen parts of this great America.

Tribune
JUL 3 1943 Philadelphia

MISFORTUNE BINDS US

Riots such as these that have been bursting all about us, not only result in a spontaneous and wholesale awareness of a common menace, but they bring about a speedy coalescence of our thinking; they galvanize the 15,000,000 of us to action because our feelings as well as our minds are touched. With enough of this kind of prompting, we will become accustomed to preparing for national action rather than the sporadic and ofttimes piddling local actions which so frequently defeat the more important program of national action.

JUL 3 1943

This is not to say that what the Negro in America needs is more and bigger race riots. But I do submit that calamities such as these do have the redeeming quality of setting up trains of thought and action, among whites as well as blacks, which otherwise only years of tedious toil and effort could accomplish. The victims of the riots, like the soldiers at the battle front, are martyrs to the common cause: That Democracy Might Prevail. They shall not have died in vain.

Six Urgent Needs — NOW!

Amsterdam Star-News New York, N. Y.

Recent race riots in Detroit, Mobile and Beaumont clearly indicate that public officials, federal and local, can do many things to prevent them. While everyone, except home-grown and foreign Nazis, admit that the riots have done irreparable damage to the nation in time of stress, this is no time to view the future with alarm. Instead, every American worthy of the name must put his shoulder to the wheel to prevent another racial outbreak. The following are some of the things that can be done to head off similar trouble:

JUN 10 1943

(1) The mayors and police chiefs must assign efficient, honest and courageous police officers to colored sections of their cities. This will be a fundamental departure from the traditional practice of detailing inefficient, lazy, often dishonest cops to patrol Negro sections in order to punish them. If the police assigned to Detroit's "Paradise Valley" had been efficient, honest and interested in performing their duty rather than in shooting down Negro citizens, the death toll and property damage would not have been anywhere near as horrible in the Motor City's recent blood-letting binge.

(2) The mayors and other city officials must act to prevent race riots before they occur rather than to soft-pedal impending trouble. Mayor Edward Jeffries of Detroit admitted that he knew months before the riot broke that race trouble was practically inevitable in Detroit. Yet, he buried his head in the sand and acted as if he were the symbol of virtue in a perfect city. If he had summoned responsible white and Negro citizens and representatives of the local press, apprised them of imminent racial trouble and asked them to work with him to prevent it, the chances are the riot would never have occurred. That is, if the Mayor and the others had exposed the bad conditions to the public and worked zealously to smash them.

JUN 10 1943

(3 Most responsible white and Negro citizens, particularly the former, never do anything to head off trouble confronting their cities. Of course, both, but again particularly the whites, shout: "ain't it a shame" after the horse is out of the stable. If citizens of both races would accept their responsibilities and force city officials and the local press to act in time they would do much to prevent race riots.

(4) The chief cause of race riots today is the bid by Negro workers for a secure place in industry. White workers, blind in many instances as usual, are fighting their Negro brothers, unaware of the fact that by doing so they are contributing to low wages, job insecurity and other labor evils for themselves. If white union officials and rank and fillers get wise to themselves and stop fighting Negro workers, including union members, when they are upgraded or otherwise receive their just rights as American workers, labor as a whole will profit. Until this is done, Negro workers will always act as an involuntary barrier to the progress of white workers.

JUN 10 1943

Management can contribute much to racial peace by stop playing white workers against black workers and vice versa. The Mobile riot was caused in large part by the convincing of the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipping Co., which not only refused for months to abide by the order of the FEPC and upgrade its Negro workers, but actually permitted white agitators on its payroll to foment the riot. If management would fire racial agitators and if trade unions would expel them whenever they are discovered, many strikes would be prevented and many race riots nipped in the bud.

The Federal Government must act resolutely and fairly to prevent racial strife in war plants, in cities and elsewhere, whenever its agents unearth it. The Army did excellent jobs by moving in soon after riots broke in Mobile and Detroit. However the Government must act even before it is necessary to send soldiers into cities and war plants with bayonets glistening on their rifles. Then it is too late, for much damage has already been done. Therefore, the Government must ferret out the purveyors of racial discord in America and arrest them like it would any other subversive agents. They are a national menace and in wartime they must be dealt with as enemies of the state.

Racial ignorance and prejudice are the real unadulterated cause of race riots. But prejudices of any kind just about ... solution at any given moment. Nevertheless, the Federal and local governments, the workers, employers and responsible citizens interested in maintaining law and and Democracy can do so at this critical period in our ...ry's history if they work together for the common good, not for any special group, racial or otherwise.

JUN 10 1943

We believe that the above suggestions will prevent ...her race riots in America. We also believe if our Government and the American people really want to prevent race ...ots they can by practicing these simple tenents of fair play and civic honesty. The job is up to all of us.

FDR to Marcantonio:

The Daily Worker

Race Riots Peril Unity

New York, N. Y.

(By Federated Press)

WASHINGTON, July 20.—Organized labor and citizens' groups aren't the only ones who have asked Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle to give attention to the recent outbreaks of race violence in various cities. So has Pres. Roosevelt.

He said so in a letter to Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N.Y.) made public today. Said the President:

"My Dear Mr. Marcantonio:

JUL 20 1943

...e your feeling that the recent outbreaks of violence ... widely scattered parts of the country endanger our national unity and ...unfort... I share your feeling that the recent outbreaks of violence ... widely scattered parts of the country endanger our national unity and ...unfort... I have asked the heads of several government agencies, ... this.

including the Attorney General, to give special attention to the problem."

It was signed, "Very sincerely yours, Franklin D. Roosevelt."

SIX POINTS TO PREVENT RIOTS

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

JUL 17 1943

Lillian Smith (white), editor of the South Today, published in Atlanta, Ga., lists six things the white South can do to ease racial tensions. They are:

1. Stop using epithets and telling jokes on colored people. They are not funny except to the Germans.

2. Tell your friends and write newspapers that the use of courtesy titles (Mr., Miss, Mrs.), when speaking to cultured colored people or about them is only decent.

3. Find colored individuals with whom you can be good friends, know colored leaders. Read colored books and newspapers.

4. When you have a chance of not being segregated, quietly take it (such as sitting by colored people on a bus or street car).

5. Pay your cook more. Shorten her hours. Recognize her right to join a union if she wants to.

6. Work quietly for the abolition of the poll tax and white primary, non-segregation in the armed forces, non-discrimination in defense and in labor unions; for a Federal law against lynching and for removal of segregation laws from Southern codes.

JUL 17 1943

Six Points for Colored People

The AFRO matches Mrs. Smith's six points with six that colored people can follow to ease racial tensions. The AFRO's six points are:

1. Start for work a little earlier so as to avoid the last-minute crush on bus and street cars. Wear work clothes on the job; have fresh clothes to wear to work and back home. You have a right to a seat, but that right doesn't permit you, in soiled clothing, to jostle your neighbor who is freshly dressed. Zoot suits are all right after work hours, if you must wear them, but avoid conspicuous clothing where you work.

2. Don't talk so that other passengers can hear what you are saying. Sit or stand quietly. Public conveyances are not the place for crude jokes or loud laughter. You may be tired but, nevertheless, give your seat to the aged or to women with children and packages.

3. When a drunken man or a disorderly person is creating a disturbance in public, join with colored neighbors in handling the case yourselves. Don't hesitate to show the other race that majority colored opinion is for law and order.

JUL 17 1943

4. Form associations to clean up your own neighborhood. Have committees visit the homes of persons who deliberately throw trash and garbage in public streets and alleys. Phone or write the Health Department or the mayor when trash and garbage collections are irregular. Keep at it until your block is clean and orderly.

5. Be on time for work every day. Report in condition to do a full day's work. Don't mumble and shirk. If conditions or pay are unsatisfactory, tell it to the boss. If he doesn't remedy it, get another job.

JUL 17 1943

6. Investigate rumors. Think what harm a race riot can do in any community. Any thoughtless, irresponsible person can start a riot, but it's the innocent people who usually suffer for it. If riots do come, go home, stay there, defend it to the end.

M.P.'s, State and Local Police Keep Watch Over Negroes; Chase Rumors

The Plaindealer Kansas City, Kan.

JUL 2 1943

(By the Associated Negro Press)

Reports from the south indicate this week that the police forces are maintaining a constant vigil to prevent further racial disorders. Laurel, Miss., authorities said all arms of the govrenment were cooperating to suppress race incidents before they can get started.

The sheriff at Louisville, Miss., said race feeling in the area was rapidly diminishing and that two disturbances between Negro and white citizens had been handled easily by his deputies.

Beaumont, Tex., offjcials said state, city and county police were patroling areas of tension to speed up a return to normalcy after the recent debacles there, and to halt new ones at their source.

Jackson, Miss., police officers said they were running down originators of "false rumors" that threatened to provoke a serious racial clash last week. Two minor flareups, they said, were quieted down before they spread throughout the city.

Laurel, Miss., July 2. (ANP)—Military police htis week escorted back to the Laurel Air Base three truckloads of Negro soldiers who had been taken to the local police station for questioning during an investigation of a race clash in a local cafe here. While the disturbance raged an unidentified soldier is alleged to have struck a white MP resulting in the removal of several others to the city jail.

The public relations office at Laurel Air Base stated that the Negro soldiers were taken to town on a mission and while backing one of the vehicles into a parking space struck a car at the curb. An MP who arrived at the scene to investigate discovered that one of the soldiers in the cafeteria had overstayed his leave. Upon attempting to place him under arrest the MP was attacked.

Appearance of a highway patrolman to aid the MP resulted in a speedy quelling of the incident whereupon the soldiers were taken to the police station for questioning. After being held there for several hours they were released and allowed to return to their bases.

Louisville, Miss., July 2. (ANP).—Race tension which resulted in a wild series of race riots in various sections of the city were reported this week to be rapidly quieting down by Dr. W. B. Harman, sheriff.

He said a Negro woman arrested for engaging a white man in a fight had been released, but that two Negro men were under arrest on a similar complaint. They will be charged with disturbing the peace, he added.

The woman was placed in custody after she is alleged to have struck at a white man when a package she was carrying was knocked from her hands. Another white man came to the aid of the first, and when the woman sought refuge in the police station she was promptly arrested for fighting.

Feeling ran high in the colored district over the incident and demands were made for her immediate release. Whites gathered around the jail house and assured officers they approved their action. The situation became so tense that drastic action was threatened. Eventually, however, the Negroes were dispersed and the whites prevailed upon to return home.

Another situation occurred when two Negroes engaged in a fist fight and were lodged in jail over the protest of witnesses. Tension ran so high that aid was asked of the highway patrol, but when Capt. Leonard Thames and Patrolman Dennis Cross arrived the disturbance was under control.

Beaumont, Tex., July 2. (ANP)—Fines ranging from $25 to $100 were imposed upon twelve white men turned over by the Texas State guard's court of inquiry into the recent race riots, were announced this week by city officials. Four of the defendants drew fines of $100, the others $25 penalties.

One of the men fined $100 will also face charges of arson at a later trial, said authorities. The fines meted out resulted from charges of burglary, concealing stolen property and loitering.

Hate Inciters Against Harmony, Mayor LaGuardia Warns

JUN 25 1943

"we have in our midst some snakes who Warning that "we e midst of a most difficult and trying period. ne, more than being criticized for this from vari- alm, cool and ous sources, which indicate to me ve an under that I have tried to keep our city fellow's prob ship on an even bear in mind white man if any midst some assaults to see trou- group, I will protect the Negro reason any- group and prosecute the white een any peo- man; if any Negro group provokes f their dirty and instigates assaults against a ugh faults of white man, I will protect the white without being man and prosecute the Negro. on, or provo- "But what is most important of are not our ill is that before we rush to con- not love our clusions, before we do anything, is to just stop and consider what this has been is all about, and if there is justi- the equal fication, we must not forget that I am in New York City we still have the

"I want to assure the people of this city that with just a bit of cooperation and understanding on the part of the people themselves, we are able to cope with any situation. I am depending upon the good people of this city to keep our record clean."

The Mayor's statement appeared in the Amsterdam News.

JUN 25 1943

UNION WIVES FIGHT RACE INCITEMENT

The Worker New York, N. Y.

JUL 25 1943

A broad women's conference to protest Axis-inspired attacks on minority groups will be planned by the AFL-CIO Council of Women's Auxiliaries, it was agreed at the July 11 women's meeting on consumer problems held in West Park, N. Y.

The decision to hold a conference on the question came after a serious discussion on the recent race riots in Detroit.

The West Park meeting also passed a resolution in the form of a telegram to President Roosevelt, calling on him to broadcast a Fireside Chat condemning provocations against the Negro people and other minorities, and branding them as a serious interference with the war effort.

JUL 25 1943

The Daily Worker New York, N. Y.

Mayor LaGuardia Warns

Race Riots Logical Result of 'Plan' To Keep Two Races Apart

BY FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS

THERE are no American race riots that do not stem from the traditional policy of reactionary industrialists to keep white and black labor split. In every instance, the main victims are the common people, the masses, who can least afford to have their ranks weakened. As a result a trade unionism and the workers take a beating.

Race prejudice is a malignant growth nurtured by economic competition which is itself fostered by the diehards in power who know that perpetuation of their historic control over labor, a numerically superior class, is to divide and rule. There are not yet enough progressive capitalists to help combat this ancient ill.

BEGAN BACK IN SLAVERY

Go back to American slavery. Poor whites down South were jealous of those who owned human chattels, often jealous of the slaves whose forced labor they considered depriving themselves of a chance to get ahead economically.

Plantation owners, meanwhile, soft-soaped the poor whites with wild yarns of the blacks' natural inferiority, of the poor white's hereditary Anglo-Saxon superiority, thus turning them into enemies.

Emancipation resulted in freed Negroes being thrown in competition for jobs with starving poor whites. These whites, gullible and ignorant, became fall guys for the propaganda of wealthier and smarter whites who had lost their slaves and possessions and hoped to climb back to monetary power on the struggling bodies of the economically precarious.

Freed Negroes, bewildered and penniless, found themselves in a hostile world. Instead of combining forces and working for common advancement, both exploited groups were pried farther apart by those on top who knew it was to their advantage to do so.

DIXIE STILL BEHIND TIME

That condition still exists in Dixie, and every awakening to the fundamental fact that neither poor white nor Negro will better his condition without uniting meets bitter opposition from those who can retain their control only by keeping races split.

Landlords, and big plantation owners used every possible form of terrorism to block formation of the Southern Tenant Farmers union and other interracial organizations among sugar cane and other workers in Louisiana and various parts of the south.

Because the Farm Security administration has taught cooperation to impoverished farmers of both races and helped them improve their economic condition, the powerful lobby of the moneyed landowners has tried fervently to get congress to kill this thing so dangerous to the previous status quo.

Up north with the advent of lily white trade unionism, the big industrionalists used unorganized blacks as strikebreakers. Unionists and Negroes became bitter foes. Dupes of the capitalists, neither could see the need for joint action or that the salvation of one lay in union of both. They had been divided; now they were ruled. It was some time before enough rational voices could be raised to sound the fundamental fact that all labor will grow strong only if united.

CIO SOMETHING NEW

Birth of the CIO and its avowed policies is the most significant development in the history of American Negroes since emancipation. Its goal to abolish prejudice and obtain a common front in the ranks of all workers, white or black, is admittedly hard to obtain for it would bring together those who have been encouraged to be enemies. But its progress has caused certain AFL brotherhoods to take stock and liberalize their traditional anti-Negro policies.

Naturally the CIO has been smeared by reactionary big business and its Charlie McCarthys. Down south attempts to organize the CIO in industrial plants has met with all kinds of opposition on the part of management. Racial antagonism has been shoved to the fore. Organizers have been beaten and chased out of town.

Pamphlets have been printed and distributed among white employes insisting that the mixed unions of the CIO would result in "social equality." Comparatively little opposition is met by AFL, for its general policy has been to separate Negro workers into jim crow locals—and that is all right since it is the lesser of two evils.

KLAN READY IN DETROIT

Let us consider the Detroit riot. When the CIO organized automobile workers without regard to race and despite opposition by the magnates, certain industrialists cast about for ways and means of weakening labor. The Ku Klux Klan was a ready tool.

Let members with their color antagonism be infiltrated into CIO locals, and strife would be the inevitable result. The Klan therefore became industry's fifth column in Detroit trade unions. And so we had strikes over upgrading and integration of Negro workers with the resultant Ones placed on the unions, the Sojourner Truth fiasco and now the recent tragedy.

In Beaumont there was resentment against Negro Americans getting the same rate of pay as white Americans as ordered by WLB. This was but another example of traditional division of the two classes of workers historically fostered. In Mobile observers find that the ship building company was hoping for strife and did its part to set the stage for the resultant trouble. So it goes throughout.

Maybe these riots can be traced directly to axis propaganda as many insist. But it should be obvious to those who know America that it is never too difficult to start a battle between white and black, Axis sparks would have fallen harmlessly had not the powder box been already full.

WRONG VIEWPOINT

Maybe we ought to expect certain industrialists to want to leave no stone unturned that will insure their continuing to get all the profits, leaving a bare minimum for the workers. Since strong unions mean more wages to labor, then kill or at least maim the unions and let anything else go hang! This is the lowest form of capitalist, but he is not dead. He would rather let the Axis win, if it means continued profits, than see victory for America if it means security for the worker.

The blame is also upon black and white laborers for allowing themselves to be dupes. If only for the sake of his pocketbook, the white worker should welcome complete cooperation with Negroes, for without him he can never fully realize his goal. The Negro worker might as well learn that he will get nowhere without the aid of his more numerous and better entrenched white friends.

Riots indicate that the CIO campaign to educate members along the lines of tolerance has a hard job ahead. Counteracting traditional myths of racial difference and inferiority fostered for generations is no small job. Both white and black must redouble their efforts for mutual understanding through every possible means.

ROOSEVELT HAS HELPED

Reactionary big business has been dealt many blows by the social theories and advances of the Roosevelt regime such as social security, excess profits taxes and the like. But that is not enough. Rugged individualism is still too strong.

There is today a growing group of progressive industrialists who recognize the rights of labor, who are content with reasonable incomes on investments. But until we have enough capitalists who are willing to fight for American democracy instead of bigger profits, until we have enough common people of both races who have sufficient sense to realize that American race prejudice is a shrewd device to keep workers disunited, we are going to have more Detroits, more Mobiles, more Beaumonts.

That day of labor unity is not at hand, although it can be seen through the mists. There will be more riots, more looting and burning and killing. The reactionary industrialists have sown the wind; today an America at war reaps the whirlwind.

Detroit Promotes Japanese Victory

Yanks' Reaction Abroad, Silence of F D Disturbing

By ELMER CARTER

Los Angeles, Mobile, Beaumont, and Detroit have spoken more eloquently than all the high-sounding words about the four freedoms, liberty and equality that, since Pearl Harbor, have been shouted from these shores. The millions of India, the brown people of the Southwest Pacific and the blacks of Africa know that America's protestations of democracy are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, and that oppression and persecution because of race and color may be found not only under the swastika of Nazi Germany, but under the stars and stripes.

America's Loss Incalculable

We who are American citizens of African descent didn't lose at Detroit as much as America lost. The number of our dead and dying is greater by far than that of our attackers who were evidently aided and abetted by officers of the law, sworn to protect the lives and property of the citizens, no matter what their race or color. We lost no prestige, no respect, no honor.

But America lost, and the measure of her loss is incalculable. For wherever men and women are oppressed and yearn for freedom, wherever countless millions possess dark skins, the luster of America's name will be tarnished and faith in the American democracy will begin to ebb.

How can America condemn the ruthlessness of Japan—America which sprinkles the pavements of her cities with the blood of citizens whose only offense is the color of their skin?

President's Silence Strange

In the face of the pogrom at Detroit and the increasing boldness of those elements of the population intent on depriving the colored man of his rights by threats, intimidation and mass murder, the silence of the President of the United States is as strange as it is disturbing.

His is the only voice that can stay a repetition of Detroit in a half dozen American cities, including Washington, D.C., where racial tension is at the breaking point.

Great caution is being exerted by the Federal Government to keep accounts of racial disturbances from colored soldiers on the fighting fronts.

Effect on Soldiers Overseas

Unless there are assurances from those high in authority that the colored man at home will be protected by his government, there is grave and immediate danger that the bitterness and resentment of colored citizens in America will find expression in the ranks of colored soldiers who now face the enemy across the seas.

For how can one fight an enemy abroad when he fears for his kinsmen at home, knowing them to be at the mercy of enemies as savage and as brutal as the Germans, Italians or the Japanese.

Japanese Gains

In a score of native tongues and dialects, the Japanese prapaganda machine is probably broadcasting, with suitable dressing-up, the bloody story of Detroit, pointing ridicule at America's pretensions of democracy, sowing the seeds of distrust and hate among 30,000,000 brown men and women who are in the patch of America's armed forces.

It may well be that Detroit's greatest contribution to the war effort is to make it enormously difficult, if not impossible, for America to conquer Japan. And that would indeed be a high price to pay for racial prejudice, governmental apathy and incompetence and moral cowardice.

IS "LAW AND ORDER" PROTECTING RACE RIOTERS?

Boston, Mass. BAY STATE CONGRESSMEN FAILING US IN CRISIS

By MABE KOUNTZE

By press and radio the overwhelming majority of opinion is that the recent "race riots" from coast to coast have been

inspired by Axis agents and propaganda in this country.

Not so widely expressed but keenly resented is the increasing realization of the seeming failure of Massachusetts Congressmen—from the "Cradle of Liberty"—to take a firm and historic stand against the facist element in Washington responsible for the crimes.

Mexicans Ill Treated

Few citizens are being fooled by the latest attempts to localize and playdown the recent "zoot soot" war against the Mexicans and the numerous "legalized lynchings" of Colored Americans. Certain powerful newspapers have even sought to put all the blame on the Colored Americans and Mexicans. Certain papers are fascist minded to that extent and, like their European prototypes, were only recently blaming all crimes on so called "reds." They praise Dixie tyrants, they wave the Stars and Stripes.

They aren't fooling anybody!

The malicious attacks against the important Mexican workers on the Pacific Coast had nothing to do with "zoot suits" and was due primarily to the fact that California white girls, seeking to help the war effort, welcomed the dusky Latin visitors to their homes, dances and other "standards of equality" which maddened race-prejudiced southern servicemen on the Coast. Poison propaganda set off the spark. The fascist writers, instead of demanding tolerance, fanned the hatred and hid the true cause behind "zoot suit" smokescreens. And some folks believed it!

Where's Jim Curley?

In days of yore in times like these Massachusetts was a beacon of freedom with the names of John and Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Daniel Webster, William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips, the famed "Silver Tongued Orator." Today in the face of a rising threat of facism, find Massachusetts practically silent while all you read is the race-baiting opinions of the gentlemen from Dixie.

Under current circumstances one might well inquire as to whether Massachusetts has any representatives in Congress and, if so, what are they doing to bring added laurels to the "Cradle of Liberty?"

If ever there was a time for a Massachusetts Congressman to be heard pleading for justice, this is it. Tomorrow may be too late. Many of our Bay State representatives should now be in t he forefront, taking the spotlight away from the gentlemen from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and other states. Why are our leaders seldom if ever quoted? And what has happened to Boston's master orator, James Michael Curley? What has happened to Massachusetts representatives in Congress? The voters would like to know.

Cong. Dies Joke?

The Committee for investigating Un-American activities under the super management of Congressman Martin Dies (D) of Texas, has now questioned the American status of native born Colored citizens, "Russian reds" and lately the American Japanese, all more or less classified as non-aryans. Mr. Dies and other southerners have injected a lot of "race" into their arguments and their statements have influenced national opinion regarding "reds," Colored and Japanese. Very well. Now the Dies Committee is being asked to investigate the "aryan" preaching organizations like the Ku Klux Klan which might create some of the most startling revelations in American history and would topple many a race-baiting so-called citizen now engaged in foxy flag-waving in governmental high places. The Klan and its kindred organizations are contrary to the teachings of the U. S. Constitution and therefore UN-AMERICAN. It is one of the OLDEST un-American societies in America and its members, in promoting Nazi aryan propaganda must be classified as enemy sympathizers. So called "reds" were given the works by Mr. Dies. Let us see what he will do with the Klan. Or is the Dies Committee a joke? Is the Dies Committee investigating "un-American activities" or is the Committee only concerned with ancestry and race? It is time the nation found out. It would be proper for our Congressmen to put the question.

Jail Wrong People

Meanwhile nobody is getting anywhere by trying to minimize either the source or the importance of th erecent race riots. Somebody should be punished besides the box car full of Colored Detroit (defenders of their property and homes) who were so lpromptly slammed in jail. Somebody else should face the threatening authority of Army guns and bayonets besides that overcrowded little Colored community in Detroit where so many broken windows had stars for loyal sons "fighting for Democracy."

Yes, some can say the riots were s tarted by "local conditions." Well, who creates "local conditions" of jim crow crowded housing, jim crow recreation facilities and jim crow labor standards not to mention the dangerous by-products of each? And who fans the flames to keep the vicious race separation-system alive in this country? Are we to "protect" the real offenders and make Colored people the "goat" as has been the case so far? Is the "law" really protecting Colored citizens?

Police Took Sides

If I were to investigate the Detroit race rioting I would recommend that certain policemen be suspended. Everywhere I go there comes the question as to why did the Detroit police shoot to kill the vast majority of Colored and few (if any) white rioters. This is a most damaging indictment against the so-called "justice" in this case. Moreover, in many of the police killings of Colored, the victim was found robbing a ruined building and not attacking anyone with a weapon. In fact the Colored had very few weapons ,if any, and therefore were the natural underdog, since they were under siege in their own community. Why some police apparently took sides and used fire-arms unneccessarily instead of their clubs is also a point for investigation. In London, a policeman seldom employs a gun, even in a riot. The seeming eagerness of police to shoot down Colored lads was one of the worst aspects of the riot. To allow such policemen to remain on the force is to commend such German Gestapo action.

A Test Case

The Detroit Riot is perhaps no more important than the Beaumont and other riots that have taken place within a month. But upon this Motor City in the north comes the national spotlight of a test case affecting all the others. If the Colored man loses in Detroit he loses also in the South. This much is quite obvious.

An investigation of the Detroit case should reveal the same racial tension that exists in other areas under the promotion of propaganda against Colored workers which is being sponsored by "somebody." This is the same poison propaganda that was spread against the Mexicans in California; the Colored troops in England and, of course, the Colored servicemen training in the South. The investigation should reveal not only the stooges of "Mr. Somebody' but also "Mr. Somebody" himself. I insist some of the leads will go clear to Berlin.

Race Riots Comfort Enemy, FDR Warns

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, July 21.—In his first public comment on recent race clashes, President Roosevelt today told Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.) that such riots "endanger our national unity and comfort our enemies."

Marcantonio had written a letter to the President in which he made a strong plea for Federal investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for inciting racial violence throughout the country.

In his reply the President said:

"I share your feeling that the recent outbreaks of violence in widely spread parts of the country endanger our national unity and comfort our enemies. I am sure that every true American regrets this."

FDR informed Marcantonio that he has asked the heads of several Federal agencies including the Attorney General to give special attention to the problem.

Citizens Asked To Send Suggestions On Riot Stoppage

WASHINGTON—(A N P)—The sub-committee of the senate judiciary committee, entrusted with working up the details on the investigation of race riots, was stoppages and discrimination in the armed services, has already gone to work and requests have been voiced asking that citizens send his group any information, articles, pamphlets, letters or testimony which will be helpful in getting all the facts before it.

Appoints Members

Following a meeting of the judiciary committee of the senate, chairman Frederick Van Nuys, (D) Indiana, appointed as members of sub-committee, Sen. Pat McCarran (D) Nevada; Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D) Wyoming and Homer R. Ferguson (R) Michigan, to fully explore the request for $25,000 to cover the expenses of a national inquiry, to begin the study at once and to report to the full committee on Sept. 14 when congress reconvenes.

It is understood Sen. Ferguson is now in Detroit making a painstaking study and personal investigation on the order of his "one-man grand jury" probe during which he secured the indictment of several Detroit police officials and racketeers caught in a "crime ring" while he was serving as judge, a year before being elected to the senate.

Students and leaders of race relations groups are being urged by those close to the sub-committee to forward any suggestions and recommendations regarding the stoppage of riots and the promotion of good-will to Sen. Pat McCarran, senate office building, during the next two weeks.

Senate Wants Citizens To Send Details On Race Disturbances

JUL 24 1943

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Virginia

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, entrusted with working up the details on the investigation of race riots, war stoppages and discrimination in the armed services, has already gone to work and requests have been voiced asking that citizens send this group any information, articles, pamphlets, letters, or testimony which will be helpful in getting all the facts before it.

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JUL 24 1943

Sen. McCarran during the summer will make a similar survey at several other points where it has been reported racial tension threatens the all-out war effort of the peace and security of American citizens.

JUL 24 1943

Sen. O'Mahoney has been foremost in a half-dozen senatorial investigation committee during his two terms and conducted the hearings last year on Sen. Pepper's anti-poll tax bill which was favorably reported to the full committee of the judiciary.

COMMITTEE IS STRONG

The general impression is that the sub-committee is a strong one with members who will be impartial and unbiased if their previous activities are any criterion.

It is pointed out that Sen. McCarran has recently secured a 500 unit, air conditioned housing project for the in-migrant colored workers at the largest basic magnesium plant in the world, located at Las Vegas, and that his influence was active in securing the appointment of the recently named police lieutenant in the District of Columbia, F. Pittman, the first time a colored officer has been named.

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BETWEEN THE LINES

Atlanta Daily World

Hold The Negro Down

By DEAN GORDON B. HANCOCK

JUL 18 1943

The RIOTOUS OUTBREAKS here and there about the country are sorry, sordid and sickening events. They easily constitute one of the ugliest developments in modern history. Even more important than the cursed events themselves and their underlying motivations. And unless the situation is taken in hand by the states and localities themselves or by federal authorities, we are in for some deplorable developments.

These outbreaks are not isolated happenings resulting from isolated motives arising in isolated communities. They are rather closely connected incidents directly related to a common cause of rebuffing the Negro in his attempts to better his condition. The HND (Hold Negro Down) elements in this country are on the offensive, and even the war efforts are being subordinated to its studied designs. The resurgence of the anti-Negro politician of the south is one of the manifestations of the spirit and determination of the HND's of America. Angered because the Negro wants to enjoy some of the freedom he is fighting to guarantee to other racial and national groups, these HNDs are now throwing democracy, hristianity and God to the winds in their efforts to subjugate the Negro.

AGAINST THE NATION

It is for this nation to say whether its war efforts and its moral standing are to be subordinated to the designing ends of the HNDs. It is just as well for this country to know that the threat is not alone against the future of the Negro, but against the sovereignty of the nation and its survival. The Negro cannot be indefinitely subjugated without brutalizing efects upon the mind and morals of the nation and world. It is no more creditable for the HNDs to massacre defenseless Negroes than for the Germans to annihilate defenseless Jews.

JUL 18 1943

While it is a popular thing to charge everything to axis propaganda it may not be amiss for us to consider the possibilities that we have elements in this country just as capable of fomenting these outbreaks as ever the axis have. What is more, these elements were active long before the axis was ever dreamed of.

What transpired in Detroit roughly dramatizes the situation. When we consider the pattern of the Detroit riot we have some startling revelations. In the first place, with few exceptions, all those killed in Detroit were Negroes. In the second place, with only few exceptions, most of those arrested were Negroes Thirdly, a large number of the Negroes killed, were killed by the police. We have here one of the most omnious revelations of the whole situation. From the way policemen shot Negroes the assumption was that Negroes were the instigators of the riots. From the way Negroes were arrested it might be assumed that Negroes were foremost in the disorders. How could Negroes be at once the great instigators and the greater victims?

PROTECT WHITES ONLY

The Negroes caught it going and coming more Negroes killed and more Negroes arrested. This roughly indicates to Negroes what to expect when the riots break out. The policemen are patiently out to protect the whites and not the Negroes And herein lies the danger. If the law enforcement authorities are carrying into their work the assumption that the Negro is uniformly the trouble maker, then the police are going to overlook the white hoodlum in their determination to quell the Negroes. Statistically, one would conclude that the Detroit riot was instigated by Negroes, factualBly we know this it not true.

JUL 18 1943

The ugly spectacle of riotous outbreaks must be laid at the door of the HNDs whose major premise is un-Christian and undemocratic and un-American. Their activities are jeopardizing the moral standing of the nation abroad and queering our chances of leadership in the post-war world. A lawless nation may be popular because of the strength of its exchequer; but it will not be respected; and such respect as it will enjoy in the comity of the nations will be of the "dollar down" type.

It is just as well for this country to remember that the present threat is not so much against the Negro as against the nation itself. AMERICA MUST SAVE THE NEGRO OR ITSELF BE LOST!

The thing that is producing riots against Negroes in this country is far more dangerous than that which is hampering our war program through strikes. Both are giving great comfort to the enemy. Both are happening here.

New Republic

New York, N. Y.

What Makes Race Riots Possible

SEP 18 1943

SIR: Without question our greatest social disgrace of many years have been the Los Angeles "zoot-suit" riots and the race riots in Detroit and Texas. The police departments were only exceeded by the press in the shocking competition for first place as principal accessories to the crime. Back of the encouragement which they extended to the mobs that roamed our streets lay the emotionally deep-seated sanction of a large proportion of our citizens.

The riots had their origin in many different sources. . . . But they were possible for only one reason, and that is that there is a sanction in public prejudice, however falsely grounded, for this lawless behavior. . . .No mobs form any more unless they feel that they have back of them a justification in principle which is shared by a large part of the community.

SEP 18 1943

The human race in its long history has not lost any of its savage impulses but it has acquired a system of customs, laws and standards. This system serves to curb savagery except when the mob can find a means of justifying its unleashed violence in that very ground of established beliefs and customs. What I mean to say is that there are certain beliefs and customs current among us which permitted the savage aggressions of a group of our people to express themselves with the assurance that while they were stripping zoot-suiters of their pants and beating them into insensibility, they were acting in accordance with certain ideas of the right thing to do. They, in fact, conceived of themselves as nobly preserving certain fundamental principles.

I therefore submit that if we do not wish to see a continuation and an increase of similar riots we must systematically remove the sanctions in our social beliefs upon which these actions depend. It is easier to name these sanctions than it is to correct them, but it is a good first step. They are: first, the myth of racial difference; second, the well nurtured error of the superiority of some races over others; and third, the common folklore that criminal behavior is a hereditary and racial trait. . . .

Our fundamental problem, then is to wipe out these underlying premises; to cut the ground of social sanction and justification from under the feet of those who practise race violence.

It means conducting a systematic campaign of public education in our schools, our press and our movies. It means lectures

HORIZON

Riots Emphasize Necessity Of Program of Action And a New Strategy

BY P. L. PRATTIS

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, PA.



THAT precipice forecast by the Jerimiahs of the South, Virginia Dabney, John Temple Graves, Talk Thridge, and others, has been reached on a broad front. In less than a month, blood has been spilled in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Texas, California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. The root of the evil in every instance is the same and so obvious that it seems fatuous to discuss it. Bluntly, there are millions of black men and women in this country who are determined to be free and there are millions of white men and women in this country who are determined that these black men and women shall not be free, if such freedom means the destruction of barriers which have kept the black and instruction by scientists in the true scientific facts of "race," and it means calling the turn whenever a police inspector reports that the zoot-suiters are "of racially criminal inheritance." It may be hoping for a miracle to expect that our public officials could achieve such enlightenment, but we should make the effort to bring the facts even to them. Folk beliefs are hard to kill, but we have before us the examples of vaccination, public achieve as much in the realm of social epidemics.

JACOB I. ZEITLIN

Los Angeles, Calif.

man from being ... Mr. Pittman a fully participating member of the American community. These millions of blacks are determined that their own liberation shall be achieved in the present world-wide struggle for freedom. These millions of whites are equally determined that the status quo for these black Americans shall not be changed. Not all the mechanized force of all the armies in the world can make them change, according to Mr. Ethridge.

ALONE IN STRUGGLE

NEGROES know by now that there has been substance in these jeremiahs. Dead and maimed Negroes and the destruction of property attest to that. Detroit, which provided almost the perfect racial tensions in action, has given the Negro worker the true picture of what he is up against. He must realize, if he did not do so before, that he is quite alone in his struggle when the chips are down. Of the thirty-one who died in Detroit twenty-six were Negroes. Of the more than seven hundred injured the vast majority was Negroes. Negroes were the ones wholesaled to jail. A Negro community of 160,000, in a city of two million, found itself battered by the mob AND THE POLICE. The police killed most of the Negroes and the police arrested the Negroes. Eighty per cent of the police force of the city was concentrated in the Negro district to prevent Negroes from defending themselves and to arrest them for defending themselves. One shot was fired out of an apartment hotel by a Negro on defense. This shot was first at the mob. The police did not drive the mob away. Instead, the police fired one thousand rounds of tear gas into the building to drive the Negroes out.

THE daily newspapers published scores of pictures showing the mob hunting down and beating Negroes. They showed Negroes attacked who were in the custody of police. They showed police in the act of attacking Negroes. What were the police doing when Negroes were being beaten in the Negro district? Arresting Negroes. What were the police doing when street cars were stopped by the mob and Negroes dragged off and beaten? They were arresting Negroes. What were the police doing when automobiles bearing Negroes were stopped, turned over and demolished and their occupants beaten? They were arresting Negroes. It is crystal clear that in no American community is the police power going to be used against the majority from which the mob comes to protect the minority from which the victims come. That much Negroes ought to face. That is a problem for Negro leadership, not the fact of getting killed, but the fact of dying vainly, of stupidly taking on too many odds.

EXPLOITING DISCONTENT

NEGROES are not afraid to die for their freedom. There are thousands ready. But why die, not for freedom, but for repression? After the riot started in Detroit, Negro leaders joined some of the police and spoke to other Negroes over loud speakers, advising restraint. These Negro leaders cautioned the Negro mob. It was high time to advise them against foolish sacrifice. But a better time for such advice is before the vain sacrifice is made. There were some Negro leaders today who wisely, the burden of discontent among what they call the mass of Negroes. The mass is scarcely distinguishable from the mob. The white mass is the white mob. We expect responsible white leadership to control the mass, the mob, to lead it, not to follow it. There is a tragic disposition on the part of some Negro leaders to follow the mass, the mob. The voice of the people, to them, is the voice of God. Negroes are rightfully bitter against their oppressors. But it is not the part of wise leadership to allow this bitterness to lead the Negro to suicide. Leadership must graft on to the determination of Negroes for freedom a definite program of action and a new strategy.

Of course, this is not meant to absolve white America from its responsibility. The riots of the past few weeks show the moral decadence and degeneration of America. They show the rottenness at the core. The majority of all Americans, white and black, is hopeful that America may be cleansed, that its high and lofty professions may be practiced at home as well as abroad. But these Americans have no inspiring, courageous leadership. America's leaders are afraid of the race problem. America's leaders know that the race problem, as we have it, **is a bitter confection of the South, forced on us by the South. The White House and the Congress are held at bay by the South. The Congress will not attack the problem because it is dominated by southerners elected from rotten boroughs. The White House and other departments of government are paralyzed with fear of what may happen if they do the right thing.**

NATION SUFFERS MORE

MEANWHILE, Negroes suffer. But the nation suffers more. Every setback given the Negro is a setback to the nation. We are in a world struggle where, whether we like it or not, color counts. There are the four hundred million yellow Chinese, the three hundred and thirty million brown Indians, the two hundred millions of blacks in Africa, South America and North America. All of these people want freedom. That free people may survive, Russia is willing to set them free. The English people (not the government) are willing to see them free. The United Nations, as a whole, are for such freedom. Only the obdurate, prejudiced bloc in the United States stands athwart the road to true freedom for blacks. They stand as a menace to the future freedom and security of our own country.

CAPITAL PRESS TRIES TO CALM RACE RIOT FEARS

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Ill

MAY 23 1943

WASHINGTON, May 20—(ANP)—Capital newspapers, with a measure of prompting from the Washington office of the NAACP, have attempted to dissipate some of the fear that has been circulating here over the prospects of a race riot.

The recent orderly demonstration of "Capital Transit Week" sponsored by the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Utilities appears to have been the basis for these rumors. Besides a day of picketing, the committee held a mass march from Washington's "Harlem" to another section of town where a public meeting heard Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, and Charles Collins, Negro Labor Victory committee, also of New York, spoke on jobs.

Last week the Washington Post devoted a lengthy editorial to the subject, and said in part:

"Like any other war-swollen community where whites and Negroes live side by side, Washington has a certain amount of racial tension. Careless talking, rumor-mungering, can only exaggerate it...You will do a service to your city if you refuse to become infected by these poisonous rumors of racial trouble and refuse to pass them on to anybody else."

The Washington Daily News said this:

" . . The police have scurried all over town answering fake riot calls and every one of these reports investigated by this newspaper and other newspapers has proved to be a lie. . . Reports of this nature are supposed to be touchy subjects for newspapers to handle. But to ignore them at this point would be doing our town a disservice. Frankly stating that these rumors are lies will help to kill them."

The Evening Star preferred to approach the subject in a news story, the head on which was "Don't Spead Rumors!" The lengthly yarn cites the investigation and questioning of the public authorities by the Washington Federation of Churches.

No one is prepared to say definitely that the rumor spreading was "organized" but the current activity of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the matter is not exactly a practice work-out.

The inference has been made that bus drivers and taxi drivers have had a part in spreading the rumors. In a letter to John Russell Roung, commissioner of District of Columbia, the committee on jobs pointed out that "first-hand accounts" of stories :told by taxi drivers to their passengers" had been passed along. These dealt with reported week-end riots between Negroes and whites, necessitating the calling out of soldiers and marines.

The letter was signed by Mayme O. Brown, secretary.

"Solid South" Aiding Hitler In Fight on Negro Rights

By RICHARD SHANNON
(PV Southern Bureau

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

JUL 10 1943

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Another Negro soldier and a Negro civilian were dead in Dixie as rumors of further race riots swept through the South following the week of hell which resulted in the bloody massacres at Beaumont, Texas and Detroit.

Private Otis Gardner of Selma, Ala., was wounded fatally by an unidentified guard at Fort Bliss, Tex., following rumors, which seeped into camp of a race riot in nearby El Paso. A white sentry, Private Paul V. Brown of Brazil, Ind., was critically injured in a fight which started when a group of Negro soldiers reportedly decided to march into El Paso.

Funeral services were held in Atlanta, Ga., this week, for Percy Edward, Negro worker slain in front of his own home by city police. Patrolman W. M. Cox made a highly questionable statement that Edward advanced upon him with a drawn knife after he had been arrested by the officer and his partner, Patrolman C. M. Cloud.

A repetition of the Beaumont and Detroit riots was narrowly prevented in Louisville, Miss., after a woman had allegedly slapped a white man who knocked a bundle out of her hands in a crowd. Another white man joined in the quarrel, and the woman ran to the office of Sheriff W. B. Harman for protection.

Sheriff Harman placed the woman, who was later released under arrest for fighting. A group of Negroes then gathered in front of the jail to demand her release while a crowd of whites mobilized to back the sheriff in his action. Eventually, both groups returned to their homes.

Three truckloads of Negro soldiers from the Laurel, Miss., air base were taken to the Laurel police station "for investigation" after a flareup in a cafe.

Steve Cecil Edwards, 27 years old, of Birmingham, was seriously wounded by a white motorman and a special white officer for a local industrial plant when he allegedly refused to move into the jim-crow section of a city bus.

The young man was shot once in the stomach and twice in the arm when J. B. Braswell, the motorman, and W. L. Henderson, the special officer, both white, opened fire on him.

A housewife and a boy in his teens were in the Chattanooga, Tenn., jail following an altercation with a white man on a bus some two weeks ago.

The woman, Mrs. Margaret Dell Heard, is charged with slashing a white man who insulted her on a bus bound for Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., which is in commuting distance of Chattanooga. Held as an "accessory to felonious assault" is 17-year-old Earl Williams who, ing Negroes who are American Chattanooga police claim, handed citizens rather than fighting Nazis Mrs. Heard a knife in the dispute whose treatment of Jews is one that took place on the bus. exactly the same plane as South-

It will be recalled that Beau- ern treatment of Negroes. ately mont's first racial disturbances began more than a year ago with disputes on the city busses.

By and large, Southern officials that "state and federal law en- have taken few steps to remedy forcement agencies are working the critical situation. Actually, the closely tog

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lead to serious trouble, network reaching into and that a munity in the state is ed so that immedi- such rumors start, e run down and, if ped at once; or if ks out, it can be han- it gets serious."

JUL 10 1943

Rumors

61-1943

General

Elizabethton, Tenn., Star
June 23, 1943

The Egg Is Rotten

When the War Between the States came to an end slavery of colored folks was abolished.

Many persons of the present generation are only too glad to argue over the pros and cons concerning the conflict of 1861-1865 and many are easily angered, and probably rightly so, by the Reconstruction Period which followed this blight on the history pages of this country.

Regardless of how one may feel as to the main topic, the race riots between the white and colored people of recent years and more particularly of the past few months, such as those in Beaumont, Texas; Mobile, Alabama, and more specifically the riot still running rampant in Detroit, Michigan, can but open our eyes to a serious situation.

It is generally conceded that the Negroes born, reared and remaining in the South are well behaved and good citizens and many of them are trusted employees. However, it just seems that within a few months after Southern reared Negroes go North and find new customs as to them many of them lose their sense of proportion, with the result that serious riots are always pending and many times break out into real violence with loss of life and property.

The egg that the North laid back in 1861 has indeed become rotten, and it seems that this is a mess that those living in the North must clear up — and soon.

As an able ex-judge and lawyer said yesterday to us, "There is no such thing as equality in social relations, for there are many white people I do not care to associate with and prefer Negroes to certain of them, and the same applies to the impossibility of equality between the Whites and the Negroes."

From experience this writer has found that Negroes throughout the United States are well treated, but there is a definite place for them as there is for the whites, and equality on a social plane is not something that can be gotten, if at all, by coersion, threats and violence for if there is equality in a social sense it is founded upon a respect one individual or group has for another and in common interests such as business, professional, religious and educational.

Probably one of the great contributing causes of the present race riots between white persons and Negroes is the fact that disreputable and uncivic-minded white politicians seek the vote of the Negro and in order to get this vote are willing to tolerate the hoodlum Negro element and whitewash their disrespect for law and order, so perhaps the remedy for the situation is for the majority race, i.e., the whites, to clean their own political house and do away with the very evil that has allowed the rash element among the colored folks in the North with practical immunity to violate the personal and property rights of the white citizenry.

Only recently there was a report that a Negro had raped or attempted to rape two white women in neighboring Johnson City. This sort of crime must be curbed within our own area, and although the colored population of this city and county is well behaved and has among its numbers many respectable citizens it is time that law enforcement agencies, with impartiality and strictness apprehend and the courts punish violators and those tending to cause race riots, whether the perpetrators be white or colored.

Newberry, S. C., Observer & Herald
June 4, 1943

Sane Discussion Of Vital Race Question

(By H. E. C. BRYANT)

Washington, June 1.—An interesting "hush-hush-hush" campaign has been going on here for weeks. A threat of a serious race conflict prompted it. A widespread rumor of a riot between negroes and a group of Union transit workers gave hundreds of thousands of visitors and residents the jitters. The danger, it is now said by local newspapers, was not real but was caused by the circulation of mysterious rumors coming from where nobody in authority knew. Warnings were sent to government workers and others to hurry home and stay off the streets during certain hours.

"Washington has been beset with an increasing horde of rumors of race riots and race antagonism," one popular daily asserted some days after the flurry was over, and continued: "Every one of these rumors have been investigated and have proved to be without foundation. This includes all the rumors of unpended street cars, upturned buses, shooting, mass fights in the Pantagon building, and so on. The police have been scurrying all over town answering riot calls."

"There have been two events of controversial race nature. One was the picketing several days ago of a restaurant in the U-street area by Negroes. The other was the parade and meeting to listen to Rep Marcantonio (American Labor member of the House of Representatives from New York) discuss equal job opportunities, particularly as it relates to the transportation companies here. Most of the rumor-mongering has been done by 'phone. Washingtonians of both races are to be congratulated that the rumor-mongering has not upset their equilibrium. Reports of this nature are supposed to be touchy subjects for newspapers to handle, but to ignore them at this point would be doing our town a disservice. Frankly stating that these rumors are lies will help to kill them."

The two leading dailies had similar editorials. The Afro-American, Negro-owned paper published here, said in a front page editorial: "All the enemies of America are not foreigners or agents in the employ of the Axis governments. Some of the most dangerous saboteurs are malicious and prejudiced persons like those who last week circulated the rumors that a race riot was imminent in the nation's capital."

Although little was written here about the excitement, law-abiding citizens were deeply concerned lest there would be an outbreak that would result in bloodshed and a scandal for the nation.

For months Negro organizations led by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have demanded that the Capital Transit Company which ownes and operates the electric car and bus system of Washington employ colored motormen, conductors and drivers. The President's executive order 8802, which forbids "discrimination against war workers because of their race, creed, color and national origin," is being used by Negroes to compel employment they have never had before.

The Transit company has not wanted to use Negroes as motormen, conductors and drivers of buses but was forced to agree to do so by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices. However, members of the labor union that controls platform operators bucked. Now the contest is between Negro and white labor organitation traction employes, not owners.

Last December 23rd, after the controversy had been raging for some time, the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices announced that it had been "officially notified that the Captial Transit Company which had been declared a war industry, will abide by the directions issued to it to bring the employment policy of the bus and trolley system into line with Executive Order 8802."

At the same time the committee's attention was called to the position of the international union of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of American (an AFL affiliate) on the issue of employing Negroes as platform operators on street cars and buses. That union has a contract with the Transit company through its division 689. Local members of the organization made it known they would not work with Negroes. According to the War Manpower Commission, international president of the union, appealed to the men here to forget their prejudices, asking them to "take into consideration the fact that we are now engaged in war in which the colored man is called upon to do the same line of duty that the white man is called upon to do."

That did not win over the objectors, Mahon intimated that Southerners employed by the company might be the kickers.

"I again call your attention to the fact," said he, "that it is a serious matter. I realize how some of your membership, being Southerners, feel on this matter, but you must take into consideration the fact that we are engaged in war and any discrimination that would attract public attention at this time would be very ydetrimental, and especially coming out of Washington."

The conflict continues. February 3, this year, the company put a Negro on a car as a trainee. His name was Bernard Simmons, who had been a private chauffeur for several years.

The Washington Star in a recent history of the case printed an affidavit made for it by Simmons that show clearly where the trouble lies.

"I filed an application with the Capital Transit Company on January 4," he said. "On January 29 I was called in for a physical examination, which I passed. I was told by the employment manager to report for training Monday, February 1. I went to classes Monday and Tuesday at the training center. After the completion of Tuesday's class I was given an assignment to go to a car barn Wednesday morning for training. At the car barn I met an instructor and we boarded a car. The conductor asked him: 'What have you there?' He said: 'I have a student for you.'

"The conductor said: 'Not for me. I refuse to work with a black man.' After considerable argument the conductor walked off the car. We tried several cars, but on each we received the same treatment.

"We returned to the 14th Street car barn where I went to another class. The director of the personnel for the company called and asked me to report later for an interview. When I arrived he said: 'We are sorry but there is nothing we can do.' He offered me several custodial jobs which I refused. He said that he felt that he owed me something and when things were straightened out he would call me back."

When an effort was made to put the new employee on a car some of the motormen and conductors turned back their equipment they had already taken out to sart on their trips. One man who had taken a car out came back to the barn and, on discovering what had happened, got off his car and left it there. No cars moved for 20 minutes.

On May 3 the Fair Employment Committee notified the company to appear for a hearing "to determine whether the provisions of Executive Order 8802 and the directions of the committee." It has also asked the company to cease work because of the attempted employment of him.

So the matter stands. A date for the hearing has not been announced. In fact it has been announced by Dr. Price Administration, who is on leave from Howard University, and the Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Washington plan may be used as a model for other cities where war industries are at work. The Capital Transit Company employs 5,176 persons of whom 526 are Negroes.

The picketing of a restaurant on U-street in a Negro section was to protest the activities of which were directed by Doxey A. Wilkerson, director of education specialist in the Office of Education, and the Week," the

force the owner to feed Negroes as well as white people. It was successful. It is believed here that the recalcirant motormen, conductors and drivers will be punished. If they are dismissed by the Transit company the National Labor Relations Board will more than apt do as it did in the case of CIO union men in Lynchburg, Va., who refused to work with Negroes, uphold the employers for firing them. But the Transit company is short of help now and it cannot afford to lose all of those who object to Negro workers. An argument used by the Negro arganizations is that colored motormen, conductors and bus drivers have been employed with satisfactory results in New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Daytona Beach, Fla., Corpus Christi, Texas, Winston-Salemn, N. C., Hackensack, N. J., and other places.

Many people here have sympathy with the Negro demand because the unions have taken them in wherever it helped them advance their cause. But onlookers say the truth is, John L. Lewis, William Green and Phillip Murray would like to dump their colored contingents in the sea, if that could be done. Southern men who have joined unions cannot afford to kick about their Negro associates in the face of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 8802.

The alertness and good judgment of Major Kelly, superintendent of the Police Department here, may have anticipated the riot anticipated. He let the Negroes parade and hear speeches, but he had them escorted. The man Marcantonio who spoke to them is the member of the House defeated for a place on the Judiciary Committee by Southern votes at the opening of the session of Congress. Some high-up administration leaders had recommended his appointment.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 26, 1943

THIS MORNING



by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

The Pittsburgh Courier, leading Negro paper, has asked this column for a statement on causes and cure of the race riots. By way of saving myself part of a day's work I am reproducing here the reply I sent:

* * *

The basic causes and the eventual cure are too complicated for summarizing. They involve economics, politics, and, most of all, history. But the immediate cause, I think, is an atmosphere of war tension and high wages in which agitators for making the war an occasion for reforming race relations are looking so hard for trouble, and implacables on the other side are looking so equally hard, that explosions take place. The temporary cure, I believe, is a concert of white and Negro press on having those who are looking for trouble on both sides concentrate on not making trouble themselves. This means persuading Negroes that long customs are not going to be altered overnight while a war is on, whites that they are not policemen and that nothing calls on them to act like policemen, and policemen that shooting is a last rather than a first resort. It means persuading everybody to stop saying the community is sitting on a powder-keg and that awful trouble is coming sure, to stop scaring each other to death, Negroes about whites and whites about Negroes, to stop magnifying small incidents with silly whisperings and wild rumors, and to stop saying "we must organize for protection." It means, finally, persuading adults to control irresponsible and hooligan adolescents.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
Circ. D. 32,341 S. 38,125
JUN 24 1943

NEGRO LEADERS MAKE APPEALS FOR RACE UNITY

College President Says Riots Deplored by Entire Nation

ATLANTA, Ga., June 24 (INS)—An appeal to both the Negro and white races to exercise tolerance and good will in an effort to maintain unity of the nation during wartime and to avert additional race riots was voiced today by several Negro leaders of the South.

"The inter-racial clashes and flare-ups over the nation in soldier contonments and war industries are indeed to be deplored by all right thinking citizens of both races," Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., asserted. "During this period of national crisis our patriotism requires that we exhibit all possible tolerance and understanding. Negroes are anxious to serve our nation to the full extent of their ability. They ask this opportunity under conditions which show some appreciation for the four freedoms for which we fight, backed up by the sportsmanship and good will which our nation proudly boasts.

"I would urge Negroes everywhere to exhibit during these times of tension and hysteria the same consideration and tolerance which we seek. If this attitude is adopted by all concerned under the guidance of courage and wise leadership, these clashes and misunderstandings can be reduced to a minimum, if not ruled out completely."

A similar plea was voiced by C. A. Scott Jr., general manager of the Atlanta Daily World and southern vice-president of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association. He said:

"Like millions of patriotic Americans, I am alarmed over the spread of racial clashes. Even in peacetime such conflicts don't help either race, and in times of war they only aid our common enemy.

AXIS PROPAGANDA

"These outbreaks are used as effective propaganda by the Axis in an effort to show disunity. Racial conflicts can only delay our victory and result in a useless sacrifice of American lives, both black and white. A firm and prompt stand must be taken by Government to stop this greatest of all threats to our war effort and interracial good will. It is now the duty of every American to exercise tolerance and restraint to the end that we shall have a speedy, united victory and a greater America."

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, urged that each community take steps now to eliminate any danger of spread of riots.

"Detroit and Beaumont must give every true American vital concern," he said. "How unfortunate that as we fight a common enemy abroad, Americans fight each other at home. This is a time when members of both races should be kind, just, tolerant and considerate of each other.

"Every responsible officer and every citizen should put forth honest efforts to see that he does his part to maintain harmony between the races. Detroit indicates that each community should study the causes of racial conflict and seek to eliminate them with sanity, courage and justice, characteristic of a true democracy. Governors, mayors, chiefs of police, editors, ministers and teachers should take the lead to this end."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 22, 1943

THIS MORNING



by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"I sits with my feet in the brook,
And when anyone axes me why
I hits 'em a crack with my crook—
'For sentiment kills me.' sez I."

Without on-the-spot information on either the Beaumont or the Detroit race riots it is possible to say that one in Michigan is far more disgraceful than one in Texas. Michigan has only a small percentage of Negroes. Texas has a very large percentage. When Northerners find that they can't control the race situation at home even with so small a percentage of the minority race it should fill them with Christian charity towards Southerners for the trouble they sometimes have with their tremendously larger percentages.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 26, 1943

Mr. Connor's Appeal

It was inevitable that the terrible racial tragedy in Detroit should increase concern and tension in other communities of the country. Here in Birmingham we have shared the reaction. And in our city, with its large percentage of Negro population, we have for months been confronting extraordinary conditions tending to enhance strain and uneasiness. It is under such conditions that Public Safety Commissioner Connor has considered it wise to appeal to all our people, white and colored, for the exercise of the utmost mutual consideration, courtesy and patience.

His statement is not to be construed as implying anything beyond what it obviously is—an emphasis on the necessity for good sense and self-discipline in a time of serious tension.

Far from being occasioned by anything not known to the public, it warns against baseless rumors and reports which are always such an aggravated problem in situations of the kind we are now facing.

The great majority of our people have been conducting themselves with full awareness of the urgency of a cooperative spirit and a humanitarian consideration for one another. We all are common strugglers with the stresses and dangers of these times. With a few exceptions, we are resolved to deal with these problems as friends and citizens of a common country.

The Detroit tragedy grimly emphasizes the need for this spirit. While such outbreaks do increase uneasiness, they are also lessons and warnings that should strengthen all our defenses against any disorder and violence among us.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Temperance Is Needed In Race Trouble

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JUN 25 1943

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

JUN 25 1943

BY PAUL MALLON
Special National Correspondent

THE RACE RIOTS OVER THE COUNTRY (BEAUMONT, LOS ANGELES, DETROIT, MOBILE) ARE BEING WATCHED FROM WASHINGTON with tightly drawn, silent lips, but with much inner perturbation and comment.

It has become customary for officials to lecture the hoodlums on both sides about law and order, and the necessity for being calm in strained emotional periods of wartime, but this does not seem to be doing much good. It does not even reach in the direction of the causes or cure of the tragic, expanding condition.

The ultra radical New York newspaper PM, and the CIO publications, which either instigated or sensationally backed a movement at the start of the war, to get the Negroes full social and economic equality, swiftly, during the domestic upset contingent with the war effort, have taken the line since the riots that they are inspired by Fascists.

General Status, Not Incidents, Responsible

RIOTS DO NOT GROW OUT OF A RUMOR OR MANY RUMORS, OR EVEN ISOLATED INCIDENTS, BUT OUT OF A GENERAL SITUATION. First you must have an explosive general condition in which such sparks may ignite.

JUN 25 1943

The riots do directly serve the cause of the enemies of this country, but alert government agencies have come forward with no proof of a direct Axis agent contact either with rumors or riots. No one seems to know the true cause of most of them. In one place, it is one thing; in another, another.

But in all cases it is a clash over the rights of Negroes — and, of course, the very same radical American sources who make these charges are the ones who are championing a reform of these rights to

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, July 20 —[illegible] several other [illegible] to 1943

Race Riot Action Asked by President

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

JUN 21 1943

[illegible] who had written the Chief Exe[illegible] about riots in Beaumont, Texas, and Detroit.

[illegible] closed in a letter to Representa[illegible] tive Marcantonio of New York, "I am [illegible] sure [illegible] th[illegible] sident

to the NAACP or Richmond Civic Council. Support the organization that fights for your advancement.

Remember that rioting will not help. Don't carry a chip on your shoulder while riding cars and buses or at work.

Ways to Help Bar Any Race Rioting

Birmingham, Ala.

JUN 25 1943

Remember that rioting will not help to win the war, and that minority groups must not let themselves be provoked into street fighting because they will suffer most.

Keep cool head, and take

61-1943
Sumter, S. C. Daily Item
August 6, 1943

DESTRUCTIVE RIOTS

The big "race riots," first in Detroit and later in New York's Harlem section, have done this nation more harm on the world front than if they represented the loss of a battle. And indeed, that is what they do represent. The battle lost is the battle of civilization, in its slow upward progress against barbarism. When such things occur at home, foreign enemies may well point the finger of scorn at this New World and its assumptions of superiority.

The great riot in Harlem, which required the services of 6,000 police to bring it under control, was not such an open racial conflict between negroes and white men as was the case in Detroit. It seems to have been a savage outbreak of black men alone, apparently without leadership, but in a reckless and angry mood which resulted in general disorder and destruction. It might be compared to an old-fashioned college football riot, raging about in a reckless way for the sheer joy of destruction, but worse than anything of that kind on record.

What is the trouble with such rioters? Doubless they are influenced, and moved subconsciously to imitation, by the enormous wave of organized destruction now raging over the world in military form. But there must be a smoldering resentment in the souls of these American "hooligans" that invites them to such violent expression—something which calls for understanding and correction.

Jim Crow's Bitter Fruit Is Feast for Hitler

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

By ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

A YOUNG Negro school teacher in Kentucky said to me a few months ago, **"You can never know just how it feels to be an American with a black face."**

His mournful, tragically true words haunted me recently during the terrible hours of travail of Negro Americanism in Beaumont, Texas, and Detroit, Michigan. We, who complacently present a white face to the world, can never know, by actual experience, the feelings that go with presenting a black face.

There are few places where it makes no difference. The Soviet Union is such a place. There one can proudly remember or simply forget differences. One is accepted equally on either basis.



ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

The best we, who are white Americans, can do, I replied to my young friend, is to know through sympathy, through understanding, through passion for justice, through willingness and determination to fight **"that all men are created free and equal."** Thousands of white Americans can and do feel this to the very marrow of their bones. **In firm solidarity between progressive Negro and white Americans lies the hope of wiping out racial prejudice and the hatreds and violence it produces.**

July 4th is an appropriate day to think deeply about Jim Crowism and all its bitter fruit. Hitler has found it one of our most vulnerable weaknesses. Let us make no mistake about what has happened. Hitler has won nation-wide victories on our home front—in Los Angeles, Newark, Beaumont, Texas, in Florida and Detroit. It is no accident—not sporadic. It is deliberate, planned.

The stunned Negro people have buried their dead in grief and bitterness. Their confidence in their government and growing pride in themselves as citizens and workers have received shattering blows. Their only "crime" has been to have black skins.

The whisper "A white man's war—what have we to gain?" grows in volume with every outbreak. War production is halted on a large scale. Thousands of terrorized Negro workers stay away from shipyards, auto and aircraft plants, and this on the eve of a United Nations offensive in Europe.

White Rioters Are Traitors

Every white man who took part in anti-Negro attacks is a traitor. He may not be one deliberately, but he might as well be. He is a tool of Nazi agents doing Hitler's work inside America. How Hitler must laugh—what pleasure it must give him! He has had little to rejoice over lately. He boasted of the 'unrest and revolt" he could produce in the U.S.A. He bragged how his agents would bring about racial clashes. How satisfied he must be! How he must jeer and sneer at "the democracies."

What can we do first to curb and finally to abolish race hatred? Complete elimination is a matter of time and education. But we cannot wait. We have a war to win. We must stop the evil effects now.

Race prejudice existed on Russian soil twenty-six years ago, when the Revolution occurred. Tsarist rulers fomented and utilized it to keep the people divided and in darkness. Pogroms against the Jewish people were frequent. **One of Lenin's first acts, as Chairman of the People's Commissars was to issue a decree making advocacy of or participation in pogroms a capital offense "outside the law."** This decree was sternly administered. It served as an effective deterrent on the shameful practices of the past.

Meantime, two new generations have grown up in an atmosphere completely devoid of racial prejudice. They are animated by the deepest fraternal and comradely feelings. **"Advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt is punishable by law,"** reads Article 123 of the Soviet Constitution.

Our government must seek out every instigator and perpetrator of racial warfare in our country and punish them by the extreme penalty of the law. They should be put to death as traitors, as saboteurs, as conspirators to murder and as actual murderers.

Execute Ringleaders!

To be weak or irresolute with the Ku Klux Klan, the America Firsters, the Christian Fronters and all similar slimy, defeatist outfits, is to risk civil war in America. They exist to menace our home front and jeopardize our military victories abroad.

The far-reaching effects of these race riots go beyond the borders of our own country. The lives of our soldiers in distant places depend upon the wholehearted cooperation and unflinching loyalty of allies who are not white skinned.

What will our black-skinned, brown-skinned and yellow-skinned fighting comrades think of **"Freedom from Fear"?** How we treat Americans with black skins is the acid test of our sincerity in our relations and dealings with all of them. Hitler's agents will work diligently to spread the news. The cancer of race hatred must be cut out to its smallest roots. **It is fascism in our midst. Racism is Nazism. We can't win a war without smashing it.**

We know the hearts of our Negro brothers and sisters are sorrow-laden and heavy. So are ours for them and with them. But let us not forget that these riots were a pattern of resistance to an irresistible equalizing process in America—the decision of the War Labor Board for equal pay for Negro workers; the reorganization of the Fair Employment Practices Committee; orders to put teeth in Executive Order 8802, the chances of success in the anti-poll tax struggle; the participation of a squadron of Negro fighting planes at Pantelleria.

The growing unity between white and Negro trade unionists which will stamp out the scourge of race hatred, must be increased and cemented. Labor is logically the spearhead in the fight for equality of the Negro people on the economic front, to end discrimination.

The U.S. government, through the Commander-in-Chief, could take a long step forward in guaranteeing equal rights to Negro Americans by **abolishing all forms of Jim Crowism in our armed forces,** and summarily punishing privates, officers, police or citizens who do not treat all uniformed men properly.

Complaints multiply from camps everywhere, against treatment that ranges from insults and refusal of food to actual physical violence and lynchings. Northern Negro families are sick with anxiety about their men folks quartered in Florida, Georgia and elsewhere South.

Dorie Miller remains a mess boy.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Govenors Pass the Buck

SHORTLY AFTER THE DETROIT RACE RIOTS, the newspaper PM sounded out the Governors of six states, Michigan, Alabama, New Jersey, California and Texas—where racial violence has occurred in the last few weeks—and Mississippi, which has had its share of disturbances in the recent past. The Governors were asked what steps they had taken and what plans were under way to forestall new disorders. The Governor of Michigan failed to reply. The others, with the exception of New Jersey's Gov. Charles Edison, gave no indication that anything was being done. Governors Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi and Chauncey Sparks of Alabama told PM, in effect, to mind its own business by stating that "outside influences"—newspapers, politicians, misguided philanthropists and "zoot-minded propagandists"—were making matters worse by interfering in local affairs. They joined California's Gov. Earl Warren, and Coke Stevenson, Governor of Texas, in expressing confidence that city and state police were entirely capable of handling race riots.

It is obvious that these Governors mean to do nothing. Paradoxically enough, they feel safer in affirming a stand-pat attitude even if that attitude practically guarantees the recurrence of racial wars. For they know that were they to act sincerely, they would have to act drastically—measures designed to improve race relations would have to cut under racial problems, deep into the social tissue where they are embedded. In the words of Alabama's Chauncey Sparks, "The two races are part of the economy of the South." Evidently the Governors fear changing the economy more than they fear race riots.

Although the Governors failed—and with them the federal government whose official eyes remain closed—fortunately, theirs is not the last word. The struggle for harmonious race relations is part of the broader struggle against reaction which is now running so bitterly in this country. It is preëminently labor's fight. Organized labor is the only force left which is strong enough to fight the destruction of the liberal democratic policies instituted by the New Deal. The struggle for the improvement of race relations is to join in the struggle to restore democracy. Labor can win its fight, but it must take over the responsibilities which government has shrugged off. Much can be done (and much has already been done) through educational campaigns; even more can be done through action in factories and production centers. Stop commentators on

Negro-white relations should be organized, methods for granting the Negro full economic equality should be studied and put into effect. Thereby, labor will gain for its own struggle a valuable ally in the Negro; but even more, the problem of race relations will have been placed in a wider setting where it can receive the attention, and the effective action, it demands.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Race Riots

The race riots in Detroit and elsewhere demand vigorous emergency action. The first necessity is to stop them wherever they occur and prevent them wherever they are seriously threatened, by police action if that is possible and by military law if local police forces are inadequate.

But stopping violence is a far cry from discovering and eliminating its causes. For the sake of the nation's future, we must also carefully trace these causes, which are varied and complex, and must take steps to eliminate them at the source. At the moment nobody knows exactly what they are, or how much weight to assign to the various probabilities. Axis instigation is one factor, but there is also the explosive material with which Axis propaganda works. Injustice to Negroes and Mexicans on the one hand, and race prejudice among whites on the other, of course threaten collisions. These are made dangerous by strains incident to the war, such as housing shortages, food shortages, labor shortages. And they are derived from deeper sources, such as lack of education and opportunity for both whites and other races.

What we should at once institute is a National Commission on Racial Relations, with the breadth and competence to lay the issues bare and recommend remedial action. Race hostilities may easily turn out to be the Achilles heel of one of the strongest nations in the world.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Negro Councilman Warns Mayor Of the Danger of Race Riots Here

Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia and Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine must bear a share of the responsibility for any outbreak of race rioting in New York, the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Negro member of the City Council, declared yesterday. Rising to a point of high personal privilege at a City Council meeting, he charged the Mayor and Commissioner Valentine with having refused to discuss with him and a group of representative Negro and white citizens plans to prevent any such outbursts of rioting as those that have taken place recently in Detroit and other American cities.

Councilman Powell charged that there have been cases of police brutality toward Negroes in recent months and that complaints about them either have been ignored or the matters "whitewashed."

Without discussion of Councilman Powell's remarks the Council referred to its committee on rules a resolution, sponsored by Councilman Joseph T. Sharkey, leader of the Democratic majority, and Councilman Genevieve B. Earle, minority leader, calling for the naming of a Council committee to investigate "groups or individuals who attempt to create racial or religious antagonisms in New York City." The resolution also called for the recommendation of proper remedial legislation by the committee so designated.

No Action Is Taken

The rules committee met briefly to discuss the resolution, but took no action. To the same committee was referred a similar resolution sponsored by Councilman Peter A. Cacchione, Communist, who asked for appointment of a committee of seven.

Councilman Powell, after asserting that the last few months had witnessed "a continual succession of unwarranted brutality perpetrated upon Negro citizens in our city," with many cases resulting in deaths, declared that he had taken each of these cases up with Police Commissioner Valentine by mail. He said that one letter had been acknowledged, but the rest ignored entirely. One incident, he charged, was reported to Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands, but no answer was received. Records subjoenaed from Mr. Herlands's office by the City Council's investigating committee he said, showed that his complaint had been indexed on a card and marked "filed."

Councilman Powell told the Council that he had sent Mayor La Guardia and Commissioner Valentine a telegram on Tuesday asking for an immediate appointment for himself and a representative group of Negro and white citizens, to discuss racial tension in the city and means of combating it before it could break out into serious disorders.

"Up to this minute," he declared, "not one word of acknowledgment has been received from the Mayor or the Police Commissioner."

Warns Councilmen of Riots

"I now say, fellow Councilmen," he declared, "that the riots of Detroit can be easily duplicated here in New York City.

"If any riot breaks out here in New York the blood of innocent people, white and Negro, will rest upon the hands of Mayor Fiorello La Guardia and Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine, who have refused to see representative citizens to discuss means of combating outbreaks in New York. The Mayor says that he is ready. Ready for what? Ready after it is too late? We want to be ready now, beforehand. I therefore propose that the Council take the matter in its hands."

Councilman Powell said that there have been connections in New York similar to those in Detroit between the elements that would "rather lose the war than give democracy to all people." He declared that Police Commissioner Valentine had sent Chief Inspector John J. O'Connell and two other officers to Detroit to study the handling of the riots by the police of that city, and asked why that action had been taken.

After the Council meeting a group of white and Negro citizens met with Councilman Powell in a small committee room at City Hall to discuss the subject-matter of his talk to the Council. Subcommittees were named to handle aspects of a campaign to counteract propaganda designed to foment racial conflicts. Among those who attended this meeting were Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs, Miss Nancy Davis, secretary of the Citizens Committee of Harlem, and Mrs. Dorothy Waring, secretary of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

WINDSOR, 49, IS SHY ABOUT NEARING 50

Half-Century Mark Too Close for Comfort, He Tells Press Before Departure

ENDS 6-WEEK STAY IN U. S.

Talk Ranges From Race Riots to Wavell Appointment and Bahama Industries

The Duke of Windsor, who once was King Edward VIII of Great Britain, Emperor of India, and is now the Governor of the Bahamas, sat for a mass interview in the Carpenter Suite at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel yesterday. It was his forty-ninth birthday. This he admitted shyly, slightly hesitantly, because 49 is "too close to 50 for comfort."

The room was a long one, furnished principally with a table covered with green baize. The Duke of Windsor sat at one end, dressed in a gray suit with a red flower in the buttonhole of his coat lapel. His barber still trims his hair so that the growth at his temples and around his ears is fuzzy. On the top, the sandy color which once made him seem the boyish king is reluctantly but unmistakably giving way to gray.

His once ruddy face now has a real tan, his eyes are steady and mannerisms which people once remarked as being hesitant, are now certain, almost incisive.

The interview began at about 11:15 A. M. At 1:45 P. M. the Duke and the Duchess left by train for Florida and a return to his post in the Bahamas. The Duchess was not present for the interview. The Duke explained that she was busy with last-minute details and preparations for their departure. They travel with the Duke's secretary, Miss Jean Drewes, one maid and a valet.

Discusses Race Troubles

The Duke talked of many things. He declined to comment on the coal strike, but was especially interested in the race riots in Detroit. He did not think race troubles in the United States would have any effect on the current plan of sending Bahamian workers to the United States. Nor did he think that the turbulance in the United States would affect the people of his isles where t he predominant portion of the 65,000 population is Negroes. His people, he said, "are a very orderly people. Of course, the usual hoodlums take charge of any disturbance and make it greater. There is always an element who won't work, never have worked and never will."

He was not anxious to talk about Anglo-American cooperation. But he was pleased to note a seeming increase of belief in America that cooperation must be the order of the post-war world, because, "I don't see how we can have any peace without it." The war, he hazarded, might still be a long drawn out affair, with a "lot of tough going ahead."

He talked of the Bahamas, of the hopes to develop even more such industries as it supports—fishing, the production of sisal, a resumption, at some time in the future, of sponge fishing. He talked, also, of his six-weeks stay in the United States. It developed that he and the Duchess had seen a good many shows, and spent an hour last Monday evening at a Broadway dance hall—Monday being the night it is free to men in uniform.

Grateful for Press Courtesy

He expressed his gratitude to the press of the United States for permitting him and his wife to "circulate like ordinary people."

Some one asked him to comment on the appointment of Field Marshal Sir Archibald Pervical Wavell to be Viceroy of Indian. He said he thought it was a good appointment, and one very likely to coordinate India's full strength in the war effort. Then, casually like a man suddenly remembering some little item of interest that happened yesterday, he remarked: "Lord Linlithgow has done a good job, too. He was my appointment when I was King. I appointed hi mto be Viceroy of India. He has done a good job."

The remark dropped so casually that the reporters present seemed for a moment to miss it. Talk moved on to other subjects, until one of the reporters brought it back.

The reporter was a little apologetic, but he was determined. "Sir," he said, "this is a personal question, perhaps too personal, but I am going ahead with it. You mentioned being King a few minutes ago, have you any regrets for what you did?"

There was a sudden hush. The Duke himself saved it from being embarrassing. He met it without blinking, without shrinking, almost as if he had expected it, and yet, being asked, was too flabbergasted to get on with the answer. "Well," he said, "it is personal, isn't it?" He stopped, shifted in his chair, spoke again. "That's in the past. It's a long time ago." He stopped again, then he said, "You will forgive me for refusing to go into that?"

"By all means, sir," the reporter replied. The interview went on to other things—at the end the Duke shook hands with each departing reporter, saying warmly to each of them, "Thank you."

Congress Gets Resolution for Probe of Riots

WASHINGTON

Rep. Arthur G. Klein, (D. NY) introduced in the House Friday a resolution to invstigate the causs of and the forces behind recent widespread race riots.

The investigation would be conducted by a select committee of the House.

Speaking in support of his resolution, Mr. Klein expressed the opinion that the Detroit, Los Angeles, Beaumont and Mobile outbreaks "were not entirely spontaneous."

Supports Klan Theory

He attributed them to "certain groups that are interested in stirring up dissension in this country. I think," he said, "that in Detroit it was the remnants of the Ku Klux Klan, the Gerald Smith followers, and other subversive forces that were responsible for the riots.

"It is vitally important, in my opinion that we go into the question thoroughly, so that we can uncover the instigators, and thus prevent a recurrence in other cities."

Pearl Buck Raps Defense Workers Who Incite Strife

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

By JAMES EDMUND BOYACK
(Exclusive to The Pittsburgh Courier)
(Reproduction in Whole or in Part Strictly Forbidden)

NEW YORK, June 24—Pearl S. Buck declared here today that American workers who incite race riots in the nation's defense plants "are turning their backs on national unity, undermining the very foundation for world peace and should be jailed and tried under the sedition laws just the same as any other individuals who threaten our war effort."

Looking with alarm at the riots which swept the country last week, Miss Buck insists that "the need for a solution of the race question is today both urgent and immediate as a war measure.

RACIAL HARMONY A "MUST"

"The whole problem of post-war peace revolves around the proposition that people of all races can live together in peace and harmony," she said, because race prejudice destroys all moral standards and values."

The Nobel Prize winner and author believes that one of the reasons the Russian Army amazed the world in resisting Nazi invasion, is because Russia is a united nation where racial prejudice was banned as inimical to the national interest, in peace or war.

WORKED IN RUSSIA

"This solution worked well in Russia where race prejudice prevailed among the motley throng of 150,000,000 hetrogeneous peoples who are welding themselves into the Union of Soviet Republics. So today, there is no Russian soldier, no matter how ignorant, or impoverished in civilian life, who doesn't know of his own knowledge that Hitler's "master race" theory is false. In his own daily living, no matter whence he came in the vast continent called his native land, he saw that the recognition of human dignity and human values contribute vastly to the welfare of all.

DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR

"This war is different from others, because it involves the colored peoples, as well as the white. It is not a war of colored against white, thank God, but it is a war in which there are dangerous possibilities of that development. Japan, a nation of colored people, is one of our two chief enemies. India, a nation of another colored people, is the possession of one of our two chief Allies and a possession that wants independance.

"Our own Negro fellow-citizens want the equality that the Civil War promised, and never gave them. The war brew, at home and abroad, is a bad one."

Miss Buck declared that the issue of human equality is forcing itself to the forefront of the battle, in spite of all efforts to keep it in the background, because our enemies are using our failures as potent weapons against us. She cited the Japanese propaganda broadcasts which followed the "zoot suit" riots in Los Angeles and many more.

DANGER IN IGNORANCE

"There is nothing but danger in further ignorance of the effects of our behavior, she said. "Such ignorance ought not to continue for the sake of our nation. For the situation here at this moment in regard to the matter of human equality is curiously like that which existed just before the Civil War. The Southern democrats who insist on "jim crow," the poll tax and race riots in war production plants are taking the place of the Southern slave-holders. They are also putting themselves into positions of power in the government. They are saying as the secessionists said 80 years ago, that what the South does about the Negro is her own business and the South wants no interference from the North.

"The fact is that what the South and the North do today about the Negro is not only affecting the life of every American North and South, but it is affecting the course of the war.

"It is, to put it bluntly, helping the Axis at every turn, and injuring the United Nations' cause for world freedom.

"Those who provoke race riots in our war plants because Negroes are allowed to fulfill their ardent desire to do their share in our common war effort, are a menace to harmonious labor relations; are dividing us here at home at the very moment when the nation is girding itself for the supreme onslaught on the etnemy in Europe; and are a threat to our national existence," she concluded.

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

Harvard Professor Blasts Race Riots

SEP 18 1943

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — (ANP) — "If people believe in freedom, then they must believe in equality," declared Dr. F. O. Matthiessen, Harvard professor of history and literature and nationally known liberal and literary critic, Tuesday night in reference to the attitude Americans must take toward the race riots flaring up in this country.

FBI Chief Lays Rioting At Door of "Hoodlums"

Peoples Voice New York, N. Y.

DETROIT—In this city where police were responsible for the majority of the deaths in the recent insurrection, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, placed the blame for outbreaks mushrooming throughout the country on the reckless depredations of 'teenage "hoodlums" when he addressed the International Association of Chiefs of Police here Monday.

Only once or twice during his long address did the FBI chief touch on the real causes for race riots, to jimcro in the Army, to second class citizenship, etc., and then he brushed over them lightly. He based nearly his entire talk on the idea that "force must be met with force."

Fight Force With Force

He urged that "the protectors of law and order marshal in superior strength without delay and that they function for the good of all, with proper regard for the rights of all."

Although he made no direct reference to racial disturbances in any particular city, Hoover told police chiefs that in suppressing the outbreaks, enforcement officers "have the right to expect conditions will be recognized and corrected by civil authorities charged with such responsibilities."

He further stated that "when these outbursts occur, pitting race against race, creed against creed, every officer must recognize his responsibility and realize that the only intelligent course of action is to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore the peace."

Expressing concern over the rising tide of juvenile delinquency throughout the country, the FBI chief said that "in reviewing further the trends for the past six months, we find an 89 per cent increase in the arrests of girls for offenses against common decency."

City CIO Urges FDR Action on Incitements

Daily Worker New York City

President Roosevelt was yesterday called upon to deliver a series of fireside speeches to the people directed against those responsible for arousing racial and religious antagonisms.

The appeal to the President came from the regular meeting of the Greater New York CIO Council, representing a half million unionists in the city, in a resolution unanimously adopted at Fraternal Clubhouse, Thursday night.

The resolution urged that the President "make a series of radio broadcasts, reiterating fundamental American principles of equality of all men and women, and warning against and denouncing all those responsible for creating disunity among the American people by attempting to arouse racial or religious antagonisms."

Adoption of the resolution followed an address by Miss Jean Muir, screen and stage star and a discussion from the floor in which delegates reported of the activities of their own locals to combat anti-Negro incitement.

Miss Muir spoke in behalf of a conference of New York citizens which with Mayor LaGuardia's endorsement, is now sponsoring the collection of 500,000 New York pledges declaring:

"1. That we shall not be moved to mob action against any fellow citizen or group of fellow citizens.

"2. That we shall not listen to, nor repeat any rumors designed to divide us among ourselves.

"3. That we shall, at all times, live up to the spirit of our American citizenship and do what is in our power to forward mutual understanding and friendliness among all the various groups which make up our city and our America.

"This pledge is supported and has been signed by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia."

Speaking with strong feeling of Detroit's anti-Negro violence, Miss Muir said, "We say it can't happen here, but we must see that it doesn't happen here."

The Council endorsed the pledge campaign, and named a special committee to coordinate city-wide CIO activities.

He said that he has proposed a national committee to study the problem of racial and religious differences.

Dr. Charles H. Houston, noted Negro lawyer of Washington, addressed the gathering. He asserted that because of the treatment of Negro soldiers, the Negroes do not feel that they are "really in this war." He urged Department of Justice intervention whenever it is found that citizen's civil rights are unprotected locally.

Harvard Professor Raps Race Riots In Liberal Speech

Daily World Atlanta, Georgia

SEP 8 1943

He Contends Racial Equality Only Solution

By PAUL DANIEL DAVIS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—(A N P)—"If people believe in freedom, then they must believe in equality" declared Dr. F. O. Matthiesson, Harvard professor of history and literature and nationally known liberal and literary critic, Tuesday night in reference to the attitude Americans must take towards the

Sees Tension Rising
Washington Post
Race Riots Imminent, Biddle Fears
Washington, D. C.

Baltimore, Nov. 28 (AP).—Francis Biddle, United States Attorney General, speaking at a meeting of the National Bar Association in Baltimore, told the assembled Negro lawyers that he feared a recurrence of race rioting "at any moment." Biddle declared that he was "profoundly disturbed by ever-growing racial tension." He listed five factors in the disturbed relationships—general war tension, bad housing, reduced police protection through manpower shortage, treatment of Negro servicemen, and "contradiction between our profession of faith in democracy and our acts."

race riots flaring up in this country.

Matthiessen asked the audience "Are we liberals; are we for racial equality in America?" In 1936, people were thinking in terms of progressive reform, while now we have lost sight of those ideals due to the complications brought by the war. Is socialization to come?" The occasion of his blast at the American social problem was an address entitled "Liberialism in American History," the second of a series of lectures concerning "Liberalism in a World at War" presented weekly at Harvard at the Lowell House Junior Common room.

The term "liberalism" has a loose and slippery meaning and may often be confused because of its varied use in reference to religious, social, political, and philosophical topics, explained Prof. Matthiessen. As an example, he stated, "since the 1932 election, everyone calls himself a liberal but obviously they are not at all liberal in one sense." He made it consistently clear to the capacity audience that racial equality is the only basis for any world freedom.

FBI Suggests Riot Curb To President

Defender

AUG 14 1943

WASHINGTON (ANP) — From unquotable sources it is learned that in his next radio address, the President may recognize the appeals that have been coming in to him both from governmental and non-governmental sources to voice his personal sentiment in connection with the trend of race rioting and the development of tension areas throughout the country.

Authentically it is understood that the report of Edward Rhetts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on the Detroit riot, was sent to the White House, along with other recommendations. These recommendations were in substance as follows:

Chicago, Ill.

That thought be given to the advisability of building more housing and recreational facilities in Detroit, particularly for Negroes, and in such other places as those material elements provoke racial tension.

AUG 14 1943

That closer cooperation be worked out between the war department, the attorney general and local officials to expedite the sending of troops into a trouble area.

That the members of city police forces be given wider deferments as a solution to the problem of inexperienced personnel to cope with difficult situations.

Will They Never Wake Up?

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia



Nannie Burroughs In Chicago Gives Cures For Race Riots

Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

SEP 18 1943

CHICAGO, Sept. 16 (ANP)—Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, corresponding secretary of the Woman's Baptist convention, made a forceful speech during the session recently held in Chicago, in which she recommended two cures for race riots: one, democracy in practice and secondly, the purging of race hatred from both races by education.

She declared, "Negroes are not going to fight for freedom from want and then go back to the bread line when the war is over simply because they are Negroes"

POST WAR PERIOD IMPORTANT

To prepare for the important post-war period, Miss Burroughs urged Negroes to educate themselves, stand up for their rights, join a real labor union, not a jim crow wing, and save and invest in Government bonds.

She urged the convention to appoint a post-war commission to co-operate with other agencies and organizations to render service in the fields of education, employment, housing and race relations, and said that the church must take the lead in this crisis.

Miss Burroughs concluded, "Wake up, America, and get ready for the homecoming of soldiers of war, who fought for peace built on justice that knows not race."

SEP 18 1943

Battles Rage On Two Fronts, FBI Cheif Says

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Enemies At Home As Ruthless As Those Fighting Abroad

AUG 15 1943

DETROIT, Mich.—(ANP)—Civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police here August 9.

Calling upon police officers to recognize their responsibility for law enforcement and to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace in the case of such outbreaks, Mr. Hoover said that the war could be won on the sea and in the air and land campaigns and yet be lost on the home front.

ATTACKS RIOTS

AUG 15 1943

In a direct attack on race riots, the Director stated:

"Another problem which is rapidly reaching flood time proportions involves civil violence, race riots, and insidious campaigns against minority groups. It is a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans that altercations between individuals can touch off community - wide conflagrations, which are often seized upon, by young teen-age hoodlums, of both sexes, to indulge in depredations of all kinds against property and persons.

"Law enforcement is not responsible for such outbreaks. But, once lawless bands of people begin to take matters into their own hands, law enforcement does become responsible.

"This Nation in reality is waging war on two fronts. One is against the international purveyors of tyranny and barbarity.

"The other front is against our enemies at home who are just as determined, just as ruthless. The war could be won on the sea, in the air and land campaigns, and yet be lost on the home front. We, of law enforcement fight less conspicuously, but our part of the conflict, like the other, affects every home in the land and every man on the foreign fighting fronts....

"Persecution or discrimination that takes place far away is often much easier to recognize than that which occurs in our own community, yet sane tolerance and civilization of criminal justice. Uncivilization, like charity, ought to less the investigator first gets democracy, like charity, ought to facts and apprehends the begin at home. They go together. real wrongdoer, the most vigorous Every victory for intolerance in and return after having America is a menace to democracy gifted of prosecuting attorneys for all of us. powerless to act.....The only cuse for the existence of law enforcement is the protection of society....Let us be man enough, minds the real task of law enforcement. It is the protector of law and order—the corner-stone of

"We should keep foremost in our

"West Point Military camp. New York

"their duty fearlessly assigned to us.

"our men in khaki ing won their war, at we have not

ex-lost ours."

there on the front

they will find that

are

61-1943

GENERAL



How Riots Begin

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.
DEC 4 - 1943

Special

A scientific analysis and survey of the Harlem riot last August has just come off the press, done by "Social Analysis," "a group which seeks to apply the techniques of social anthropology to studies of the contemporary American scene." Edited by Harold Orlansky, the work is most thorough and fully documented, constituting the most authoritative opinion yet given on the subject. Because of this, PV condenses the survey here, with its own illustrations done by a staff artist, John Robertson. This condensation is largely composed of reprints from the analysis, and PV herewith gives credit to Social Analysis for the majority of the material here used. Address of Social Analysis is GPO, Box 499, NYC 1. Cost of the brochure is 25c.

DEC 4 - 1943

Outstanding part of the survey is that the "riot" in Harlem was actually a race riot, despite unanimous opinion to the contrary. Social Analysis furnishes these quotes:

- **Mayor LaGuardia:** This was not a race riot,
- **Police Commissioner Valentine:** No racial basis for the trouble,
- **NYTimes:** Sinister agitators, lies deliberately spread,
- **NYHerald-Tribune:** crooks and cranks and demagogues,
- **NYWorld-Telegram:** effort ... of ... subversive groups to exploit the undeprivileged ...
- **Daily Worker:** a few Negroes, unrepresentative of the 'good people,'
- **St. Louis Argus (Negro):** Ku Klux Klan,
- **Pittsburgh Courier:** no race riot,
- **NYAge:** worthless five per cent of Harlem,
- **Amsterdam News, People's Voice:** pointed out underlying causes, blamed riot upon ... young hoodlums."

Says the analysis, "In the face of such widespread misinterpretation of the facts ..." The report then gives a detailed and accurate) story of the rioting. It says,

DEC 4 - 1943



"When the rioting subsided Monday afternoon, 1,234 stores had had their windows smashed, and most had been looted as well. All types of stores were plundered but ... markets and food stores suffered most, followed by liquor and pawn shops. Of 240 liquor stores in the district, 30 were cleaned out completely with not a bottle left in place. Of 17 pawnshops, 8 announced losses above $15,000."

Favorite articles of loot were:

- **Food**—groceries, meats, fruits, vegetables;
- **Clothing**—fur coats, sweaters, suits, corsets, dresses;
- **Furnishings**—rugs, linoleums, lamps, mattresses, radios, secondhand chairs and coffee tables, and liquor and jewelry.

A few incidents of violence against whites were reported ... (Several specific instances are cited).

Most of the whites injured were policemen. ... Some 60 ... were shot, stabbed, beaten, stoned, or even bitten by rioters (Other instances of antagonism toward white policemen are given).

Buttressing its contention that the rioting was racial, the report says:

"City officials and the press were far off the truth in claiming that the riot was not racial. Although white citizens were not widely assaulted, the riot was obviously a racial manifestation. Looting was restricted almost exclusively to white property, and attacks and insults were centered on white policemen, though some Negro policemen and 1,000 Negro wardens were later on the scene; no rioter dared to spit into the face of a Negro officer.

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"It can scarcely be questioned that had a Negro policeman shot Bandy (the soldier in the case), or had a white policeman shot a white soldier, the riot would not have occurred.

"Nor was the riot the work of a small minority of 'hoodlums' as was so widely held. Evidence is overwhelming that large portions of the Negro community participated."

The report contradicts its own assertions about hoodlums, when it reports that ". . . . of 350 fingerprinted, 120 had records of previous arrest."

Mass unrest: "Less than half the usual number of Harlem's school children attended playgrounds on Monday. Negro youths were noticeably absent from downtown areas, and so many Negroes stayed away from work that City Councilman A. C. Powell, jr, wrote, 'It is evident from the number of men and women on the streets (of Harlem) that a holiday has been declared.'"

"The facts ... establish that the Harlem riot was essentially racial, featuring attacks upon white property and the white police force ..."

The report gives a breakdown of the population elements which took part in the rioting, dividing it into sequences, such as the initial window smashing with looting following upon second thought. Teen agers were prominent throughout, although older persons took part, likewise.

" ... we come now close to understanding the real significance of the riot. In looting, each person took what he or she had wanted but had been denied or limited in obtaining; and the same principle applies to all aspects of the riot. The poorer classes protested against property because they had been denied it, and against authority because that was the constant and palpable instrument of denial and suppression. ..."

The report here goes into a detailed and professional analysis of an underprivileged group and its resentment against repressions and half-citizen status. This accumulated bitterness is, therefore, ready for the explosive spark which sets it off, such as the shooting of colored soldier Bandy by write patrolman Collins in the lobby of the Hotel Braddock that Sunday night last August.

Marvel Cooke, assistant managing editor of PV, is quoted in the report: "For the most part, people were stealing food, for they were hungry. The next morning, Harlem was a shambles. But some folks weren't quite as hungry as they had been and some of the resentment had been drained from their breasts."

The report concedes that war tensions may have played a part in setting the stage for the explosion. Coupled with mistreatment of colored soldiers in the South and elsewhere, the report finds this an underlying factor in creating resentment. Discrimination in war industres and in employment in general are also cited.

The report summarizes the causes for the riot as being "accumulated frustration accentuated by increased goals placed before the Negro in wartime." Boiled down and clarified, this means that colored people are resentful over being denied citizenship advances even while we fight a war for "democracy."

"Now we can also appraise with greater [illegible] the nature of the riot and [illegible] the varying degrees of participation of different classes and ages. The poorer classes were most violent because they had been denied most and were most oppressed and because they had less to lose from arrest due to their low social status; and adolescent youth took the leadership because youth has traditionally been the most frustrated age level in our society striving for adult satisfaction and goals, or goals of its own that the adult world ridicules or refuses to recognize.

"To call this young, lower-class element 'criminal' or 'hoodlum' is to explain nothing. These boys are essentially no different in their motivations from other members of the Negro community and their reactions are more violent only because, being poorer and younger, they experience in extreme form the same frustrations shared by the rest of the Negro populace.

"The original protest was wild and furious, with destruction its only aim. When this protest was appeased, and the facade of 'law and order' had been smashed, the other inhibitions and suppressions of the Negro populace found release."

After the rioting, "the feeling of guilt was ... general. ... one woman, with her arms full of looted clothing, was heard to mutter, 'Forgive me Jesus, have mercy Lord.'"

One woman said, referring to a neighborhood grocer whose store had been wrecked, "I'm glad they got that highway robber. You can go in to buy a container of milk and one time it's 14 cents and a few minutes later it's 18."

AFTER - RIOT REACTIONS: "Those younger and poorer elements which led the riot were most gratified at the result: that middle-class elements, returning sooner to accepted cultural prohibitions against violence and robbery, generally felt more guilty; and that the strongest condemnation came from older and more well-to-do-class individuals, accused them of selfishness, stupid, or sexually promiscuous, at Negroes, the leaders of the community.

" ... since the riot was not d[illegible] class. ... In the same fashion, [illegible]'s stores are rected particularly at white[illegible] but lower-class people accused upper- [illegible] only 132 of 18,2[illegible] rather at white PROPERTY agaclass persons (the 'big shots,' 'big [illegible] NYC police depa[illegible] white AUTHORITY, we would anti-Negroes') of snobbishness, color (1942 figures): [illegible] cipate that Negroes with propertypreference, extreme in caste leadership Harlem riot was [illegible] and authority, fearing the threatdisloyalty [illegible] was kept down to their own interests in the break-('sellin' out to white folks'), and marked restraint [illegible] down of law and order, should op- economic exploitation of their pa- force." One Harlemite remarked: "Every [illegible] pose the riot. tients and customers." white man in Harlem is out to [illegible] "Upper-class colored persons, when MISCELLANEOUS INFORMA- merchants in Harlem are Jews. Although most of [illegible] gered by the behavior of lower- TION: The report places the March [illegible] colored man. He brings the land is owned by white Chris-

tions—banks, insurance companies, estates and churches—the fact is that the landlord agents are, for the most part, Jews. It is they who have the unpleasant task of collecting rents, refusing repairs, keeping expenses down for the landlords, and even bringing about evictions. . . . The Jews are easy scapegoats for the suffering and frustration of the Negro people.'"

EDITORIAL

The report is excellent. Perhaps the best done on the subject. It overlooks the antagonism of Harlem to the police force, an ancient grudge and one well founded, stemming from police brutality and whitewashings of guilty officers by their superiors.

An official report on the riot was submitted to Mayor La Guardia, and promptly suppressed. Why? This is not the first instance in which the Mayor has buried reports on Harlem which, if adopted, would improve the community and remove riot causes. The same thing is true with regards to Bedford-Stuyvesant. With 10,000 syphilis cases reported from Bedford in five years, why has there not long ago been set up health stations to combat this high incidence? La Guardia likewise suppressed the report made by the Temporary Committee on Urban Conditions (?)

PV summary of the riot and its causes: a mixture of racial antagonisms, hatred of police, sympathy for mistreated colored soldiers, outbreak of hoodlum elements, outburst of accumulated resentments caused by mistreatment in general.
—JOHN LOUIS CLARKE.

Riots Useless
Tribune
FEPC Official
Tells Audience
Philadelphia, Pa.
SEP 25 1943

"Riots are unplanned programs," G. James Fleming, regional director of the President's FEPC, with offices here, told an audience last Sunday afternoon at the First Colored Wesley Methodist Church, Fitzwater and Mole streets, "and unplanned programs are no success."

Fleming suggested the following definite program: Support the NAACP. (2) Vote wherever we have the privilege. (3) Don't riot; more colored people are killed in every riot. Nothing is gained and you have new enemies. (4) When there is a white grocer in your neighborhood, with whom you can't get along, stop dealing with him.

Fleming's address was a feature of Trustees' Day, sponsored by Roland Derry. Other program participants were LeRoy Brown and Mrs. Alice Baker, soloist.

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

WHITE OFFICER NOW SERVING IN AFRICA DEPLORES RACE RIOTING IN AMERICA

CLEVELAND—Major Myron Weitz, white, a former resident of this city now serving in North Africa, recently wrote to McDERMOTT'S LETTER BAG in the CLEVELAND [illegible] that race riots in America create "a picture of conditions in our country that is manna to the axis."

The letter went on to say that he had been reading in recent publications all about the strikes and riots in Detroit and the disharmony in various government circles.

"The pictures of the riots in the newspapers," he said, "left me disturbed. It is difficult for me over here to understand how these things can go on today."

He said that he was not ignorant of the fact that he didn't comprehend certain economic problems which he believed would always be existent, which were, in all probability, the root of the evil, yet he could not see "why these riots should occur today.

"Both black and white are fighting this war over here and they should be fighting it shoulder to shoulder [illegible] I should not think that these rioters need be reminded that Negroes have been killed, wounded and taken captive on all fronts. They were on these various fronts to protect the people back home from the very things that are occurring."

Argus
A BLOW TO RACE RIOTS

While the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations was discussing ways and means to prevent race riots in our community, Circuit Judge James E. McLaughlin led off with a stunting blow when he hit race segregation as found in the so-called property covenant restrictions which bar Negroes from owning property or living in restrictive areas in the city. St. Louis, Missouri

This decision, aside from its legal sanction was in keeping with the times in which we are living. And Judge McLaughlin should be congratulated by the citizens of this community for his wise, judicial decision which will not only mean progress for our city, but a blow to the things that make for race hatred among our citizens. Such men as Judge McLaughlin in high places in city, state and nation almost assuredly give all of us more confidence and hope for a better world in the post war area—not for Negroes, not for Jews, not for any set or clan, but for all mankind.

Sociologist Outlines Way To Stop Riots
Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

An article, "How to Prevent Race Riots," by Winifred Raushenbush, a sociologist of national reputation, appearing in the September issue of The American Mercury, details six steps that any community threatened with racial trouble can take to avert riot which claimed 34 lives, 25 of them Negroes.

Admittedly her article, says Miss Raushenbush, by-passes "consideration of deeper historical and economic consideration" and is of the opinion that "the underlying causes (of riots) cannot be cured in a week or a year." The measures she advocates "are practical steps that can and must be taken by public-spirited citizens in danger areas. These are emergency measures aimed to minimize the duration and havoc . . . trouble does break out; and more important, measures to avert riots altogether." Following are her suggested remedies:

Steps Outlined

1. Through newspapers and radio stations instruct citizens to report incitory rumors to the proper authorities.
2. Check with authorities to be sure red tape has been eliminated for declaring a state of martial law immediately if necessary.
3. Insist that the best trained and most intelligent members of the local police force be assigned to danger areas.
4. Insist on recreational facilities being provided for adolescent youth of both races, who are the most active participants in race clashes.
5. Set up a Grievance Committee and invite members of both races to air their difficulties freely, and
6. Enlist the full aid of the church of all denominations.

Race Riots Or Victory
Philadelphia Tribune

AN EDITORIAL

Philadelphia, Pa.

Hoodlums, black or white, are hell!

Irresponsible corner loungers, vandals intent on living for nothing, skilled in inflammatory vulgarity and profanity—these are the ones who [illegible] tense citizens into [illegible]tion.

Mobs, black or white, are damnable!

A peaceful crowd, incited by these vicious hoodlums who cry "get him, get the so and so," is off on its mission of destruction and murder. Indifferent as to victims; blind to their guilt or innocence, it vents the venom of its spleen on any who chances to cross its path.

Unchecked chronic squabbling and friction under the hoodlum's evil spell become little riots; little riots expand into big ones. Inject the virus of race hate and there is instantly developed America's greatest example of anarchy—a race riot.

Once afoot, the life of the most innocent individual caught in this maelstrom is in jeopardy. The First Lady, Mrs. Roosevelt, or Wendell Willkie could hope to fare no better than the humblest colored person.

The tieup of known law breakers with police and politicians is accountable to a great degree for the alarming number of petty racketeers and "little shot" mobsters.

Granted that existent racial tension is all too frequently traceable to social and economic injustice, race riots still are damnable. They cure nothing. They are not to be tolerated.

Throughout the history of America each generation has brought forth its stalwarts, black and white, for fairness and for justice. They have labored long and assiduously to establish in tangible form "a man's a man for a that." There are monuments on every hand attesting that they labored not in vain.

Today, with a war of the greatest magnitude on us, with unity of effort required as never before to assure victory, with organized labor for the first time [illegible]offering a friendly hand to black working people, we must not sit idly by while rioters run loose!

Steps Listed To Eliminate Bloody Riots
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Union Issues Pamphlet On 'How To Prevent Race Riots'

Acting to lessen the chances of racial disorders in any of the 23 towns and cities believed to be most explosive spots, the American Civil Liberties Union has released a pamphlet telling "How to Prevent a Race Riot in Your Home Town."

Steps Proposed

It urges the:

(1.) Formation of a Public Relations Committee of influential persons to check with the mayor, chief of police and governor to determine what arrangements have been made for bringing in extra police and militia in event of an outbreak.

(2.) That Public Relations Committee should also check with the chief of police on the policing of Negro neighborhoods and communities with Negro and white residents.

(3.) Ask citizens to report all rumors about racial trouble to a center designated by the Committee.

(4.) Provide jobs and work for young people, both white and Negro some of whom might otherwise participate in race riots.

(5.) Set up an Information Committee which can be depended upon to provide reliable and authoritative information on local race relations.

(6.) A final emergency measure is to call in the aid of the clergy and of church members.

Other Suggestions

One other measure is proposed by Negroes and Negro organizations, and that is that the daily press and influential white leaders and public officials should organize New York and Cleveland were evidence, Ft. Worth, Texas; Houston and Dallas, a campaign among white people to the only two of the nation's largest Memphis, Washington, D. treat Negroes like citizens, failure cities included on the list of C., and Detroit. to do which appears to be the place where racial disturbances source of all the trouble. It was are likely to occur. Those named pointed out that no matter how are: Birmingham, Ala.; Bridgeport, much vigilance is observed, until New Haven and Hartford, Conn.; Negroes are given equal rights with Chicago; Indianapolis and Gary, other American citizens, the dan- Ind.; Alexandria, Shreveport, New ger of racial strife will continue Orleans, and Baton Rouge, La.; and outbreaks of a serious nature Baltimore, Md.; Newark, N. J.; Co- will be the inevitable consequence lumbus, O.; Philadelphia, Pitts- burgh and Chester, Pa.; Provi- Cities threatened

61-1943

"RACE RIOTS COMING?"

Guardian

"Race Riots Coming" is the title of a highly inflammable, though well written and vividly illustrated feature article by Walter Davenport in the September 18 issue of nationally-read Collier's magazine. Undoubtedly it leaves to the public the delicate judgment as to whether Mr. Davenport has done the colored people an honor or dishonor. There are, of course, some arguments in behalf of the colored race, though not so powerful and so convincingly delineated as the arguments against the colored race in the interviews with the governors of the Southern States. The average white reader is apt to accept these latter arguments of the South. There is nothing in Mr. Davenport's Collier's story to counter the vicious Southern propaganda so cleverly presented. And one wonders why Mr. Davenport took so much effort to gain the destructive views of the Southern race-baiters without presenting counter-views and opinions by outstanding colored leaders like Judge William Hastie, Walter White, Phillip Randolph and many others.

SEP 25 1943

Boston, Mass.

SEP 18 1943

Colored readers of the article will not like the unequal presentation of opinions on so vital a subject as one affecting 15 million Americans. Not even the commendable views expressed by the Collier's writer himself, will have the effect of countering the racial disharmony injected into his story by the unreconstructed rebels from below the Mason and Dixon line. If he meant to convey the idea that the Southern leaders were the chief characters of his story, we can more fully understand the title of his article. For if men like Governor Olin Johnson of South Carolina are going to rule the post-war world, then Walter Davenport is absolutely correct: racial clashes will come—not only in America, but in Asia, Africa and throughout the entire world.

SEP 25 1943

Race Riots National

Afro-American

AUG 21 1943

Disgrace—FBI Head

DETROIT—Civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, according to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Addressing the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police here Aug. 9 he urged vigorous, prompt, firm and unbiased measures to restore peace in the case of such outbreaks.

Mr. Hoover said that the war could be won on the sea and in the air and land campaigns and yet be lost on the home front.

General

"Then, when our men in khaki return after having won their war, they will find that we have not lost ours."

This Evening

Birmingham, Ala.

LET'S DO SOMETHING

News

Walter Davenport has in a recent issue of his favorite magazine (Collier's) a very sobering article on race riots. Davenport does not write with a thesis in mind, he is not concerned, as he puts it, with "a starry-eyed vision of some sweet by-and-by when we shall all be socially color-blind." He is just a magnificent reporter who observes it has been for many years to see the United States broadly and as a whole. As a man concerned with the facts of the national situation and not as a reformer, he tells us that race riots are coming and that precious little is being done to prevent this ugly explosion.

SEP 22 1943

"We are going to have more race riots," he writes. "Any nation as insistent on warfare between its blacks and whites as we are is certain to succeed. The vast honest majority . . . is still shuddering over Detroit. Unfortunately, they are not expending a single shudder in advance on future Detroits. . . . As far as we're concerned at the moment, the way such riots will start doesn't matter. What we're occupied with now is that since Detroit, as before Detroit, neither federal nor local government, North or South, has done anything to remove the fundamental causes for race riots or to correct any of the conditions that generate them."

It seems to me that Davenport has put his finger on a shocking oversight. The word for what is being done or not being done throughout the country is drifting. If Sa[illegible] forces had been mobilized in advance of the ghastly outbreak, the Detroit riot might have been avoided or tempered. In any case, the city government and community, though thoroughly forewarned, let things slide until disaster came. Mr. Davenport suggests that the Detroit Police Department may have contributed measurably to the bloody business.

There are ways of shaking off the twittering helplessness with which this problem is being all too widely faced. Mr. Davenport thinks the federal government has contributed to this sad state of affairs. Except through the CFEP, Washington has been neither forehanded nor foreminded. With all the good this agency can achieve as a war agency, it cannot by itself lay those deeper foundations on which a long-range racial adjustment must be based. What is needed is a greater active solicitude, federal and local, for the removal of conditions which make for race riots.

Such solicitude can express itself in insistence that governing authorities be prepared for any emergency. But that is the first step. Much more significant would be the setting up of official bodies to study causes and to prescribe remedies. There has been entirely too great reliance on private efforts in the premises. An interracial commission such as Gov. Green, of Illinois, has just designated is much more likely to be listened to than a voluntary group of citizens. In other words, public authority has to get into the picture if any genuine advance is to be made toward racial amelioration.

Such a commission for Alabama should appeal to Gov. Sparks who has shown himself to be a progressive and courageous man. Such a body made up of the right kind of white and Negro leaders, having enough funds to do a planned job, and enough incentive to face up boldly to its task, could be incalculably useful for the establishment of sound relations. We have our sore spots which should be scrutinized without delay, but we have also the broader expanse of decency and democracy which ought to be surveyed by an official group whose findings will be respected as the best and weighted expression of the state's aspiration for justice and neighborliness for all our people.

SEP 23 1943

Small Consolation

THE Richmond Times-Dispatch, by inquiring of "a leading Detriot newspaperman," discovered that Southerners, recently domiciled in Detroit, did not start the riot there.

Norfolk, Virginia

JUL 7 1943

What difference does it make? Southerners started the riots in Beaumont and in Mobile, and the only reason why these were not as disastrous as the Detroit riot may be summed up as follows:

(1) The United States Army acted quicker in Mobile than it did in Detroit.

Journal and Guide

(2) The Governor of Texas declared martial law in Beaumont the minute he found that the police could not control the mob.

In appraising the cause of the Detroit riot the Times-Dispatch places insufficient emphasis upon one important fact: The Packard strike, which preceded the outbreak in Detroit was caused by Southerners who objected to the upgrading of a few Negro workers. That is admitted. The Mobile riot was started for the same reason. Likewise the Beaumont riot would never have occurred but for the upgrading of a few Negro workers.

The question to be settled is not whether Southerners or Northerners start riots in their respective areas, but whether the cause of these riots can be removed.

The time has come to look behind the violence for the cause of it, and to tackle this question with courage and determination. Negroes are not going to stop seeking economic opportunity and advancement in living standards in Texas, Alabama or Michigan. If they do they will sink into economic oblivion. This is not desirable during the war or after the war.

JUL 7 1943

There is small consolation in the fact that newcomers from the South did not start the riot in Detroit. The lesson to be learned from Detroit is that a new cause for race riots has gripped its teeth into the American social fabric. It is the denial of life . . . and the pursuit of happiness to minorities.

"Begin At Home"

"Persecution or discrimination that takes place far away is often much easier to recognize than that which occurs in our own community," the FBI head declared, "yet sane tolerance and democracy, like charity, ought to begin at home. They go together. Every victory for intolerance in America is a menace to democracy for all of us.

AUG 21 1943

"The only excuse for the existence of law enforcement is the protection of society. Let us be men enough, with courage and determination enough, to do our duty fearlessly here on the front assigned to us.

Mr. Hoover warned that civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, with "proper regard for the rights of all."

Mr. Hoover, making no direct reference to racial disturbances in Detroit, New York or other cities, told the police officials that in suppressing such outbreaks, enforcement officers have the right to expect that conditions will be recognized and corrected by civil authorities charged with such responsibilities.

"We are fighting," he said, "for freedom of speech, but I hope the day will come when it will be recognized that freedom of speech must be met with force, see to it that the protectors of law and order marshal in superior strength without delay and realize that the only instrument course of action is to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace.

"If force, backed by intelligent control, is necessary to meet violence, then force must be met with force, see to it that the protectors are a problem which are reaching "flood tide proportions" for all law enforcement agencies. day will come when it will be recognized that freedom of speech "When these outbursts occur, told the police officials that in suppressing such outbreaks, enforcement officers have the right to expect that conditions will be recognized and corrected by civil authorities charged with such responsibilities.

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Proportions in Nation Has Reached 'Flood Tide'

Special to The New York Times.

DETROIT, Aug. 9—Reckless depredations of teen-age hoodlums who perpetrate race riots are a national disgrace and law enforcement agencies must marshal their forces in superior strength without delay when they occur, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today in an address before the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

HOOVER URGES CURB ON INCIPIENT RIOTS

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

Head of FBI Tells Police Chiefs They Must Act in Superior Strength Without Delay

DEMANDS THAT Civil Violence

present the truth."

He added that persecution or discrimination which takes place far away often is easier to recognize than that which occurs in our own community.

"Yet sane tolerance and democracy, like charity, should begin at home," AUG 10 1943 ent on. "They go together. Every victory for intolerance in America is a menace to democracy for all of us."

Mr. Hoover warned that "dangerous days lie ahead" for all police departments, due to the alarming turn over in police personnel ranging as high as 60 per cent in some cities. Unless real understanding and appreciation of the stress already placed on enforcement is shown, the internal security of the country will be imperilled," he said.

He expressed concern over the rising juvenile delinquency rate, pointing out that his latest survey revealed that arrests of boys and girls of 17 years of age had increased 17 per cent.

"In reviewing further the trends for the past six months, we find an 89 per cent increase in the arrests of girls for offenses against common decency," he said.

Mr. Hoover criticized the tendency on the part of some motion picture producers to return to the once abandoned form of glorifying the criminal and ridiculing the police AUG 1943 distorting historical facts.

"When any force seeks to glorify gangsters and prostitute history, then it is time for those interested in law and order and real freedom to let themselves be heard," he declared.

FBI Head Hints Race Riots Point Toward Danger On Home Front

News

AUG 6 1943

Birmingham, Ala.

DETROIT— (AP) —FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover expressed satisfaction Monday that law enforcement "has been able to keep the home front secure" despite wartime handicaps but warned that "dangerous days lie ahead."

Without specifically mentioning Detroit's race riots of June 21, Hoover said that a problem "rapidly reaching floodtide proportions" involved "civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups." He made his remarks in a speech prepared for the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

"It is a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans," Hoover said, "that altercations between individuals can touch off community-wide conflagrations which are often seized upon by teen

dulge in depredations of all kinds against property and persons.

"The real trouble causing these public outbreaks lies underneath, and we of law enforcement have a right to expect that the situation be recognized and corrected by those civic forces directly charged with such responsibilities."

Hoover said that at a time when law enforcement agencies were taxed more than ever the turnover in police personnel had assumed "alarming proportions, as high as 60 per cent in some cities, and that the "danger point" had been reached.

He called for "some real understanding and appreciation" of the problem "if the internal security of this country is not to be imperiled."

MP'S BATTLE RACE SOLDIERS IN BRITAIN

Chicago Defender

Five Injured In Clash In Northwest Town — Silent On Riots

Chicago, Illinois

LONDON—(ANP)— After a fight between Negro soldiers and white military police in a northwest English town this week, five enlisted men and one officer were suffering from injuries. One of the men, Pvt. William Grosslands, of Gibson, N.C. was reported to be seriously injured. JUL 3 1943

United States army headquarters in the European Theatre of Operations issued the following statement of the incident:

"An investigation into a fight between military policemen and a small group of Negro soldiers was conducted tonight by headquarters of the European Theatre of Operations of the United States army.

"Early reports indicated that the fight began when military policemen remonstrated with Negro soldiers behaving in a disorderly manner in the street of a town in Northwest England.

"The situation was never out of control, it was stated by the local commander.

No Riot News

"Injured in the fight were five enlisted soldiers and one officer.

"One man, Pvt. William Grosslands, colored, was stated to be seriously injured.

"The officer is First Lieut. David D. Ousset. His injuries were not considered serious. The other enlisted men were JUL 3 1943 adly hurt."

Lieutenant Ousset (white) is from San Antonio, Tex.

The official army newspaper Stars and Stripes following its traditional policy of avoiding controversial topics carried no news of the incident. Race riots in various sections of the United States in recent weeks have likewise been absent from the paper.

Minimize Clashes

British newspapers, however, have given prominent display to American racial disturbances, but minimize them with editorials explaining that the war effort is tremendous despite their existence along with food rationing squabbles and the strike of coal miners.

News of the disorders reaches both Negro and white soldiers by word of mouth. It was not readily determined whether the clash here had any connection with those in America, or whether the cause stemmed from local friction. The United States army is reported to be investigating this angle.

American Negro troops have been scattered throughout England and have been accorded every privilege any other American soldier received although they have been generally accepted as American "Indians."

Chicago Tribune

Chicago, Illinois

BIDDLE BLAMES RACE RIOTS ON LACK OF HOUSING

Washington, Aug. 13 (AP). — Atty. Gen. [redacted] Biddle expressed the opinion today that AUG 14 1943 proper housing and recreational facilities for both Negroes and whites had been a contributing factor to the Detroit riots and "other racial or hoodlum clashes" in recent months.

Biddle said it seemed to him to be advisable, therefore, that responsible officials give careful consideration to the availability of such facilities before taking any steps to fill man power requirements in already congested areas.

Biddle made his observations in a letter to Lester B. Granger, executive se[redacted] of the National Urban league, New York City, who had written to express concern over statements attributed to Biddle in reports to President Roosevelt on racial problems.

Granger said a story in the New York Post on Aug. 9 created "a storm of di[redacted]on among white liberals, as well as Negroes," in that "many persons have leaped to the assumption that you have proposed to the President that the powers of the federal government be invoked to control the migration of Negroes as distinguished from other groups of war workers."

Riots Still a Threat to U.S., Says Biddle

Afro-American

Tenseness Due to War, Bad Faith, Poor Policing and Housing

Baltimore, Maryland

BALTIMORE—Race riots may recur at any time, Attorney General Francis Biddle told members of the National Bar Association here Saturday.

Speaking at the final session of the two-day convention of the association held last week end at the Masonic Temple, Mr. Biddle declared: DEC 4 1943

"Profoundly Disturbed"

"I'm profoundly disturbed by the growing racial tensions throughout the United States which have expressed themselves already in riots in Detroit, Los Angeles, and New York. We may have a recurrence of them at any time."

The attorney general said that reasons for possible recurrence are general tenseness due to the war, discrimination in the armed forces where men are asked to fight for their country and are not treated with courtesy, bad housing, and the "inconsistencies of our professions of faith and our acts."

Bad Policing a Factor

He added that bad policing was also a factor, pointing out that the Detroit force has a shortage of several hundred men.

This is no longer a local or geographical problem, but a national one," he declared. "It has its roots in the Midwest, East and great industrial centers."

It not only concerns colored citizens, but others as well, Mr. Biddle said, adding that 100,000 Japanese are incarcerated on the West Coast in what practically amounts to concentration camps.

Opposes Federal Action

"It was suggested at a meeting in New York City, and is being given serious consideration, that a national committee be organized to deal with such problems. It was proposed that the Government organize such a committee. I am opposed to that," he declared.

"I think it would be a grave mistake to have the government go into something of this kind."

Mr. Biddle declared that he thought such a program should be carried out under the auspices of private organization, with colored represented equally with whites.

Some Agitation Helpful

"Nobody should feel that it is not an equal problem," he said. "It is not a problem for agitation, but for education."

He asserted, however, that while agitation causes harm, it often does good, pointing out that the FEPC was "the result of pressure, not education."

Power Limited

Emphasizing the limitation of Federal power, Mr. Biddle said that in civil liberties and peonage cases the Department of Justice always has to determine whether Federal laws have been breached and State courts have had time to act.

He said that there is before the Supreme Court a test case from which he hoped would result a decision making lynching a federal offense. DEC 4 1943

Ask End of Jim Crow Army

In a series of resolutions the 150 degelates to the convention asked President Roosevelt to end all segregation in the armed services and urged that the FEPC be made a permanent organization, given subpoena power and authority to enforce its directives.

A resolution specifically assailed the exclusion of colored women from the WAVES, charging the responsibility of the policy to Secretary of Navy Frank Knox, and called on President Roosevelt to repudiate him.

Another resolution asked that the President include at least two colored Americans on the delegation representing this country at the peace conference.

Other resolutions urged abolition of segregation in public carriers, that President Roosevelt appoint colored attorneys to positions in Federal courts and on Federal commissions which have quasi-judicial powers, that the Senate pass the anti-lynching bill and, if necessary, invoke the cloture rule to prevent a filibuster, and that college students be encouraged to enter the law field.

Ri[redacted] Speaks DEC 4 1943

Judge Fra[redacted] E. Rivers of New York was speaker at the public meeting of the convention Friday night at Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church.

Judge Rivers said that his election was an indication that New York voters did not place any ceiling on the ability of colored citizens.

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP counsel of New York, denounced the "wave of brutality inflicted daily" upon colored servicemen, and called on the Federal Government to intervene.

Other speakers on the public

ce Riots Short-Circu

o-American

timore, Md

ALTIMORE—Race riots

people into the realization does not carry over into the every greatly religion is short- day lives and struggles of human-

ted, white, pastor of Second ity where it is most needed.

d, yterian Church, of German- Stating that God made all peo-

said Sunday. The Rev. Mr. ple of one blood, he expressed

was speaking before 300 the hope that some day mixed congregations, such as the one

Program included Governor R. A. Booker of Little Rock, Ark., O'Conor, Mayor McKeldin, Judge and John H. Wilson of Washing- Charles E. Moylan, of the Balti- tion; more Supreme Bench; Roy S. Bond of Baltimore, and Raymond P. Alexander of Philadelphia.

Charles W. Anderson, of Louisville, Ky., was named president of the association, succeeding Euclid L. Taylor, of Chicago.

Vice presidents named were W. A. C. Hughes, Jr., president of the Monumental City Bar Association, host to the convention; held in Chicago.

Mrs. Sadie T. M. Alexander of Philadelphia was elected secretary, succeeding George Evans, of Baltimore, who held the post for the past seven consecutive years and who declined to run again in favor of Mrs. Alexander. Mould, who William T. Garvin of New York was elected treasurer.

The 1944 convention will be held in Chicago.

61-1943
Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Race Riots are National Disgrace, Says FBI Chief

Civil violence, race riots, and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Detroit Monday afternoon.

Calling upon police officers to recognize their responsibility for law enforcement and to adopt rigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace in the case of such outbreaks, Mr. Hoover said that the war could be won on the sea and in the air and land campaigns and yet be lost on the home front.

In a direct attack on race riots, the director stated:

"Another problem which is rapidly reaching flood time proportions involves civil violence, race riots, and insidious campaigns against minority groups. It is a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans that altercations between individuals can touch off community-wide conflagrations, which are often seized upon, by young teen-age hoodlums, of both sexes, to indulge in depradations of all kinds against property and persons.

"Law enforcement is not responsible for such outbreaks. But, once lawless bands of people begin to take matters into their own hands, law enforcement does become responsible. When outbursts occur, pitting race against race, creed against creed, every officer must recognize his responsibility and realize that the only intelligent course of action is to adopt vigorous, prompt, and firm measures to restore peace. If force be met with force, see to it that the protectors of law and order are marshalled in superior strength without delay and that they function for the good of all, with proper regard for the rights of all. Remember that crime thrives, violence and murder rage, only where law and public resistance are weak."

'SWITCH BLADES'

Knives, Sticks, Stones Inadequate for Defense; Recent Riots Proved It

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB—Courier Pittsburgh, Pa

COLORED FIGHTERS, who have been more engaged in defending their lives, limbs and property against the onslaughts of their fellow Americans, have found themselves woefully unprepared to engage in stiff combat. It has been discovered that in Detroit, and other centers of friction, that the colored participants in the rioting were armed chiefly with knives (more affectionately described in certain communities as switch blades). Formidable looking weapons like six-inch knives, proved utterly inadequate against the steel-jacketed bullets of the white hoodlums and the sympathetic "storm troopers," clad in the uniforms of officers of the law.



Mr. Bibb

Despite seething unrest and ominous warnings that trouble was impending, the colored people were either so trusting in the protection of constituted authorities, or so confident of the invincibility of their switch blades, that they were virtually powerless to contend against the overwhelming numbers of their insidious foes. There were no "Horatios" holding the bridge in Detroit, nor were there any gallant defenders holding the pass at the Thermopylae, near Hastings street. The swarthy Americans were more helpless against the modern equipment of their enemies than were the erstwhile invincible legions of Haile Selassie, the Lion of Judah. Even if the gallant slum dwellers of Detroit had been armed with pistols and rifles they could not have held out against the machine guns, tommy guns, tear gas and flame throwers that had united against them. From these circumstances and incidents, colored Americans must have learned the sad prophetic lesson that in modern times that battles are not to be won and no ground is to be gained by the use of switch blades, sticks and stones and other outmoded weapons of alley battle.

DON'T KNOW "SOFTENING UP" TECHNIQUE

Far more effective weapons are available for colored people to use than those that have stood them so well in the past. By now, the most primitive soul in the virgin forest knows that "you cannot go bear hunting with knives." By now, the most slowly land-lubber has learned that you can't stem the flow of the tides by shoveling sand against it. Colored Americans have been so inept that they have lost sight of the artful methods used by the Axis in softening up their foes. The Axis used propaganda to crush France, Belgium and the low countries. Country after country submitted to skilfully applied radio messages, printed poison and the dulcet words of the Axis diplomats. Our case is not on all fours, but thereby we learn the futility of the mailed fist in solving human problems. There are other methods. While Roosevelt and Churchill and the great minds of the world are pondering the future and peace of the people, we must know from bitter experiences, and from the sad spectacle of present-day conflicts, that no lasting and durable peace will be impressed with the sword or the switch blade.

SINCE THIS writer is convinced that the white Americans are not at the present time, bent on annihilating the darker brothers, he is constrained to believe that the proper method to use in developing more peaceful relationships is to begin the preparation of our brief to be presented within a short date to the people of this nation. A wise counsellor would forthwith advise that the brief be supported with citation of cases and controversies and a clear and irrefutable presentation of evidence and facts. Then clear, convincing argument based on the law, the facts and the evidence, as this observer does not believe that such procedure will be sustained until the colored American so improves himself, so conducts himself and so presents himself that the evidence and the facts offered will be accepted. It was stated last week on high authority that extreme doubt lurked in the high places of the Government concerning the cultural and intellectual ability of certain groups in America to accept the proposed new freedom gracefully. Undoubtedly this reference included us, the most sadly neglected and underprivileged of the American subjects.

JUST AS the switch blade has failed, just so will all of our arguments and contentions fail us unless and until we measure up to the accepted standards. It has been cogently and forcefully stated that the American colored man cannot and will not measure up to the accepted standards in any of the walks of life, until he is unfettered and unrestricted. That we must

800 Notables Urge FDR

Fireside Chat On Riots

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois—
NEW YORK.—Eight hundred labor leaders, religious, civic leaders, from 43 states, joined this week in sending an open letter to President Roosevelt, expressing appreciation of his position against discrimination attacks upon Negroes and other racial minorities, and urging him to further action to prevent outbreaks of anti-racial violence.

This was announced by Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, which circulated the letter.

The signers included international presidents of 18 labor unions and leaders in the fields of religion, education, social service, and the arts. Of the signers 203 were in the religious field, 265 labor, 97 educators, 66 artists, writers, editors, social workers, and scores of national figures in various fields.

Prominent signers included Charles Chaplin, Grace Moore, Jean Muir, William Rose Benet, Dudley Nichols, film writer and director; Frank Tuttle, movie director; Geo. S. Schuyler, associate editor of the Pittsburgh Courier; Frank Marshall Davis, executive editor of the Associated Negro Press; Emil Lengyel, Emil Ludwig, Waldo Frank, Don Freeman, Donald Ogden Stewart; Representative Adolph Sabath of Chicago, chairman of the House Rules Committee; New York Assemblyman Daniel G. Burrows and Hulan Jack; William Jay Schieffelin of New York; Judge James S. Watson of New York; Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress; James Kelly, grandson of the Birmingham Elks, Jeannette Testu, stenographer and representative of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

We urge you to go before the people of America and the world and speak out without whose support the war cannot be won. Such action, we believe, will win the deepest understanding and response of all the American people."

Ordinarily, summer is the season for race riots. Summer is swiftly passing and perhaps the great efforts that are being launched now by the colored people, to improve our idea is fallacious and the colored man cannot improve himself, and we can and that he will, nevertheless, it has certainly been proven that his switch blade is an impotent weapon.

high seriousness of purpose that we urge you to place your back of guarantees that and other minority be freed from every which prevents their full in our war effort; that ber of our armed forces given full and adequate by the federal government wherever he may be. And we effectuate these vitally various agencies under your direction. tion will sustain the thirteen million Negro millions of other minorities whose labor and essential to victory. Such extend its influence to

with the events mentioned in this letter. We urge you to 800 notables, reviewed the recent outbreaks of violence against Negroes in the country, groups will be and the President's opposition to these practices, participation in

"The time has come, Mr. President, when you can only strike a blow against those influences that seek to undermine our national unity. Only your voice, Mr. President, as the Commander-in-Chief has the authority necessary to rally every decent force in American life to the support of the various labor and democratic groups whose action will extend its influence to

"Such action will sustain the morale of thirteen million Negroes and millions of other minorities whose labor and devotion are essential to victory. Such action will

Behind The Race Conflicts

Informer Houston Texas

AUG 28 1943

By GEORGE EDMOND HAYNES

(Recent race riots have roots deep in the history of Negro-white relations. The causes of racial tensions are discussed by a noted authority, Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary, Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches, in two articles, of which this is the first.)

* * * * *

The outbursts of violence in New York's Harlem, following close upon race riots in Detroit, Michigan, Beaumont, Texas, and Mobile, Alabama, and interracial clashes in other places including army camps, are social symptoms that have roots deep in the long history of white-Negro relations in the United States. They are also having serious effects on the course of the war and plans for the peace.

Prompt Action Averts Riot

The Harlem incident did not turn into a "race riot," thanks to the action of Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and the police. But the facts and forces involved give much serious food for thought on the future of race relations in America, for more than 40 cities, not to mention towns and rural districts, have underlying conditions that produce racial tensions and conflicts. A study of these social forces is necessary to understand the problem.

One of the chief social forces is the migration of thousands of white and Negro workers to northern industrial and commercial centers. Estimated on the basis of other periods of migration one can say that at least two white persons for every Negro have moved into the northern industrial centers in the past two or three years. They are largely from small cities and rural districts of the border river counties in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio north of the Ohio River, and from areas of the southern states.

Both races have been attracted by the work and wages of the present war boom. There is serious friction in the contacts between these Negro and white newcomers: the Negroes have migrated in a search for larger freedom from the discriminations and restrictions they have known in their former homes; the whites have come with the attitude that Negroes should keep the inferior economic and social status they have had in their old home communities.

This population congestion likewise affects southern industrial and commercial centers. For example, the Beaumont, Texas, [illegible] occurred [illegible] oil re-

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fining industrial area where three cities, Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange, known as the Sabine (River) area, have more than doubled their population since 1940. Port Arthur looks along its "Channel" to the Gulf of Mexico and all three cities glance backwards toward the heart of an area of Texas where some towns have frowned on Negroes' remaining. Now crowded together in these cities they have contact with whites on the job, on the streets, in the buses, and elsewhere.

Equalization of Jobs Frustrates

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The second major force at work has centered around discrimination in employment. Friction arises in industrial plants where Negroes are being employed alongside of whites and are being upgraded or promoted. The newcomers among whites resent this job equality. Fear and frustration plague them because for the first time they find Negroes working in the same plants with them under the same wage and hour conditions. Other whites fear that Negroes will permanently occupy lines of work which they have temporarily left for higher-paying war jobs. The entry of white and Negro women into war industries has increased the tension.

In Harlem, for many months after war industry broke the depression and until the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee took a hand, there had been large unemployment because local industrial plants refused to employ Negroes. Negro groups organized and fought such discrimination with some success. A special drive finally forced the bus company operating in Harlem to take on Negro drivers and mechanics. For several years organized groups had to carry on picketing and other forms of dramatic agitation to break down the color bars to their employment even in business establishments that drew a large portion of their patronage from the Negro community.

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Another source of tension and friction has been overcrowding due to housing shortage and slum conditions in industrial areas. While there are some excellent apartment houses, the old-law tenements with their unsanitary conditions, the high rents and poor repairs, the speculation and exploitation in Harlem real estate—all have been the subject of many investigations and much discussion. The past spring the announced intention of a large insurance company not to admit Ne-

war housing development aroused such agitation that there was a strong vote in the New York Board of Estimate against approval of the features in the plan that required city acceptance.

This condition obtains also in Chicago where court contests over restrictive covenants in deeds to prevent Negroes from buying or occupying properties reached the United States Supreme Court last year. Detroit's Sojourner Truth Houses, built under local housing authority with federal funds for Negro war workers, caused rioting when nearby white residents tried to prevent Negroes from entering them after final decision of governmental authority that they should do so. Following this incident, a Citizens' committee of Negroes continued to agitate for admission to other proposed projects and in Hamtramck, Michigan, Negroes secured a court injunction which is reserving units of a completed project for Negroes pending final judicial settlement.

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Transportation Facilities Cause Friction

Within the congested population areas another source of friction has been contact on transportation lines, mainly buses and street cars. At Beaumont, Texas, fights over buses and trains took place between whites and Negroes. The situation became so acute that two sets of buses were put on for rush hours. In Detroit there was not much tension when Negroes were employed as motormen, conductors and bus drivers, but there was tension among passengers on some lines during rush hours. A significant police measure taken to prevent more serious conflict when the explosion came in New York was the stopping of buses and taxicabs in and out of Harlem.

The underlying hostile feeling of the Negro communities from exploitation at the hands of some white merchants who supply them with most of their daily wants was dramatically shown in the widespread destruction of business places in Detroit and New York. Negro residents had numerous complaints about high prices. A comparative study of retail food prices in Manhattan made in March, 1942, under the auspices of the National Association of Colored People showed that "for every dollar spent on food, the Harlem housewife has to spend at least six cents in excess of what the housewife in any other comparable section is required to pay . . . Not only are the prices out of line, but, especially in meats and perishable products, it would seem that she pays more for products inferior even to those that cost considerably less in other sections of New York."

Short weight and short changing have been reported by responsible investigators. In addition, Negroes complained of brusque and discourteous treatment.

The facts about groceries show what many Negro purchasers of other goods, many of them on the installment plan, experienced. Of course, many honorable merchants cannot be charged with these shortcomings, but there was deep resentment against such profiteering and unfairness.

As the writer walked through Hastings street the week of the rioting in Detroit, and later as he viewed many destroyed stores in Harlem, he saw wholesale evidence of the reaction of Negroes other than looters against white merchandising practices. It showed widespread attack upon business establishments over an area of more than eighty blocks. In some places goods were scattered in the streets or destroyed. In a few cases, white storekeepers did not suffer because they were believed fair and considerate. In Detroit a request of an officer of the district merchants' association for an expression of regret from Negro leaders went without response, although privately many condemned the looting. That the destruction of property is one expression of racial group aggression is born out by the fact that white mobsters in Beaumont, Texas, destroyed and looted Negro shops and homes.

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Resent Army Segregation

Another underlying factor has been the strong resentment of the Negro people toward segregation in the U. S. Armed services and particularly the reports of harsh treatment of Negro soldiers by some white officers and local white civilians. Thousands of Negro soldiers have written home complaining of this situation in army areas where they were stationed. Others, when on furlough, have told what they could not write.

These reports and conditions have created a strong conviction among Negroes that their men have been called to fight and die for the freedom of democracy while equality of treatment, rights, and opportunities has been denied them. Furthermore, Negroes have resented the idea that when a soldier needed a blood transfusion to save his life from mortal wounds, race prejudice would require that he be served from a separate blood bank—a practice for which science gives no approval.

American Negroes have a growing feeling that "this is our war." Along with this feeling Negroes have a developing consciousness of their own worth as human beings and as American citizens. They talk about a double victory at home and abroad. It requires no sage to sense their determination to achieve a larger share of freedom than came to them after the sacrifice of World War I. Along with this aspiration arise memories of the raw deal they and their forebears have had and aggressive reactions arise in the face of old caste restrictions and customs.

Thousands of Negroes in the armed services and among maritime workers are with the forces on the continents, islands over the seas. Their contacts and experiences with the colored peoples of Africa, Asia, and the Pacific are bringing knowledge and understanding to the millions at home about the struggles for freedom of other exploited, underprivileged peoples of color. Negroes of America have a growing sympathy and understanding of the forward march of mankind in the fight for freedom from fear and freedom of want.

(Next week Dr. Haynes will discuss other factors behind race riots and will suggest how racial strife can be ended.)

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Race Riots Are NOT Inevitable—Powell

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL of the United States, Francis Biddle, speaking to the national convention of the Negro bar, pessimistically stated that more race riots were on the way. He ascribed this statement to the usual reasons: poor housing, lack of economic and employment opportunities—but the main reason is, "We are not practicing democracy as we preach it." People's Voice New York, N. Y.

From the way things are shaping up now I do not believe in the inevitability of more race riots. No one wants race riots **except** the rapidly dwindling group of American fascists who see the handwriting on the wall. Race riots are the last-ditch efforts of unAmericans to hold back the rising tide of the new Negro and the new white man. This method has worked in the past because it usually struck fear to the hearts of those who were mobbed. **That day has passed.** From out of the riot of Detroit came not only a stronger and more united Negro, but also a stronger and more united brotherhood between the new Negro and the new white man. The possibility of keeping the Negro in his place is past.

The Richmond [Virginia] Times Dispatch, a white daily, published an editorial recently, advocating that the South abolish jimcro in its buses and trains. **Why?** The writer of this editorial felt that unless this was done the southern Negro would turn away from southern Negro and white leadership and look to those "radical leaders up there in Harlem, in the North." In other words, the South is willing to abolish jimcro in order to keep the Negro in the South under its wings. This is directly the result of the rising force of the new Negro and the new white man in the North and in the South. For those of us who came from Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and Alabama, we would not believe our own eyes if we went back to some of the big industrial centers and saw Negroes and whites working together and fighting together in trade union headquarters. **This is why I think race riots are not inevitable.**

Nothing would please our home-made fascists more than a wave of rioting right here in Brooklyn in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area. Sirtl and his crowd would be the happiest people in Brooklyn if a good old fascist knock-down and drag-'em-out fracas took place.

In an argument, the person that strikes the first blow always proves that he has run out of reasoning. The thing that surprised our unAmerican enemies is the fact that the Negro has learned the secret of getting what he wants without resorting to power. It is very important to note that in this world of might and power, minority groups never had a chance, but now minority groups are learning the secret of united, direct, non-violent social action. By this we have won even before we start.

The new Negro and the new white man, through the regular orderly processes of democratic procedure, will win every fight that is right. Furthermore, we will win sooner than you think.

How to Prevent Race Riots

New Republic New York, N. Y.

Reliable reports from many parts of the United States say that a repetition of the Los Angeles and Detroit riots is possible at any moment in any one of fifteen or twenty places. Overcrowding, lack of recreational facilities, large migration of persons, whether white or black, from one part of the country to another, shortages of civilian goods, comparatively high pay and comparatively easy employment, the deadly work of native fascists and Axis propagandists, have all combined to create an explosive situation. Yet so far as we can learn, in most cities nothing is being done about it. The press, perhaps with good motives but certainly with mistaken judgment, maintains a conspiracy of silence until the shooting actually begins. Municipal authorities, while rarely as incompetent and timid as those of Detroit, seldom show true courage and initiative.

Some of the things that ought to be done are quite obvious. Here are a few:

1. Create in every city an inter-racial committee composed of the outstanding community leaders of every group that might come into conflict with any other group. Make the mayor and the chief of police ex-officio members. Meet frequently and hear reports of trouble or impending trouble in every part of the city.

2. Make special efforts to see that exorbitant prices for food, clothing and rent are prevented in the districts where the danger is greatest.

3. Encourage the press to investigate continuously the sore spots, with able reporters assigned to tell both sides, or all sides, of stories of conflict. Nothing is worse than for any element to feel it has a grievance to which nobody will listen.

4. Take drastic steps to improve and increase recreational facilities.

There are many other things that can be done to canalize the ugly emotions that set men to killing each other in a senseless orgy of murder. What is needed is an active desire at the top that such an orgy shall not take place—a desire which, unhappily, has been missing in some cities.

Behind Race Conflicts Are Seen Roots Deep In The History of Negro-White Relations

Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Virginia

AUG 28 1943

By GEORGE EDMUND HAYES

Study Of Social Forces Said Necessary To Understand Problems Of Tension

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recent race riots have roots deep in the history of Negro-White relations. The causes of racial tensions are discussed by a noted authority, Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Secretary, Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

The outbursts of violence in New York's Harlem, following close upon race riots in Detroit, Michigan, Beaumont, Texas, and Mobile, Alabama and interracial clashes in other places including Army camps, are social symptoms that have roots deep in the long history of white-Negro relations in the United States. They are also having serious effects on the course of the war and plans for the peace.



DR. HAYNES

The Harlem incident did not turn into a "race riot," thanks to the prompt action of Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and the police. But the facts and forces involved give much serious food for thought on the future of race relations in America, for more than 40 cities, not to mention towns and rural districts, have underlying conditions that produce racial tensions and conflicts.

A study of these social forces is necessary to understand the problem.

One of the chief social forces is the migration of thousands of white and Negro workers to Northern industrial and commercial centers. Estimated on the basis of other periods of migration one can say that at least two white persons for every Negro have moved into the Northern industrial centers in the past two or three years. They are largely from small cities and rural districts of the border river counties in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio north of the Ohio River, and from areas of the Southern states.

Attracted By Wages

Both races have been attracted by the work and wages of the present war boom. There is serious friction in the contacts between these Negro and white newcomers: the Negroes have migrated in a search for larger freedom from the discriminations and restrictions they have known in their former homes; the whites have come with the attitude that Negroes should keep the inferior economic and social status they had in their old home communities.

This population congestion likewise affects Southern industrial and commercial centers. For example, the Beaumont, Texas, riot occurred in that new shipbuilding, oil refining industrial area where three cities, Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange, known as the Sabine (River) area, have more than doubled their population since 1940.

Port Arthur looks along its "Channel" to the Gulf of Mexico and all three cities glance backwards toward the heart of an area of Texas where some towns have frowned on Negroes remaining. Now crowded together in these cities they have contact with whites on the job, on the streets, in the buses, and elsewhere.

The second major force at work has centered around discrimination in employment. Friction arises in industrial plants where Negroes are being employed alongside of whites and are being upgraded or promoted. The newcomers among whites resent this job equality.

Fear and frustration plague them because for the first time they find Negroes working in the same plants with them under the same wage and hour conditions. Other whites fear that Negroes will permanently occupy lines of work which they have temporarily left for higher-paying war jobs. The entry of white and Negro women in war industries has increased the tension.

Fought Discrimination

In Harlem, for many months after war industry broke the depression and until the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee took a hand, there had been large unemployment because local industrial plants refused to employ Negroes. Negro groups organized and fought such discrimination with some success. A special drive finally forced the bus company operating in Harlem to take on Negro drivers and mechanics.

For several years organized groups had to carry on picketing and other forms of dramatic agitation to break down the color bars to their employment even in business establishments that drew a large portion of their patronage from the Negro community.

Another source of tension and friction has been overcrowding due to the housing shortage and slum conditions in industrial areas.

While there are some excellent apartment houses, the old-law tenements with their unsanitary conditions, the high rents and poor repairs, the speculation and exploitation in Harlem real estate—all have been the subject of many investigations and much discussion. The past spring the announced intention of a large insurance company not to admit Negroes to a proposed gigantic post-war housing development aroused such agitation that there was a strong vote in the New York Board of Estimate against approval of the features in the plan that required city acceptance.

This condition obtains also in Chicago where court contests over restrictive covenants in deeds to prevent Negroes from buying or occupying properties reached the United States Supreme Court last year.

Detroit's Sojourner Truth Houses, built under local housing authority with federal funds for Negro war workers, caused rioting when nearby white residents tried to prevent Negroes from entering them after final decision of governmental authority that they should do so. Following this incident, a Citizens' Committee of Negroes continued to agitate for admission to other proposed projects, and in Hamtramck, Michigan, Negroes secured a court injunction which is reserving units in a completed project for Negroes pending final judicial settlement.

Points Of Friction

Within the congested population areas another source of friction has been contact on transportation lines, mainly buses and street cars. At Beaumont, Texas, fights over buses and trains took place between whites and Negroes. The situation became so acute that two sets of buses were put on for rush hours. In Detroit there was not much tension when Negroes were employed as motormen, conductors and bus drivers, but there was tension among passengers on some lines during rush hours. A significant police measure taken to prevent more serious conflict when the explosion came in New York was the stopping of buses and taxicabs in and out of Harlem.

The underlying hostile feeling of the Negro communities from exploitation at the hands of some white merchants who supply them with most of their daily wants was dramatically shown in the widespread destruction of business places in Detroit and New York.

Negro residents had numerous complaints about high prices. A comparative study of retail food prices in Manhattan made in March, 1942, under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People showed that "for every dollar spent on food, the Harlem house-wife has to spend at least six cents in excess of what the housewife in any other comparable section is required to pay. Not only are the prices out of line but, especially in meats and perishable products, it would seem that she pays more for products inferior even to those that cost considerably less in other sections of New York."

Short weight and short changing have been reported by responsible investigators. In addition, Negroes complained of brusque and discourteous treatment.

The facts about groceries show what many Negro purchasers of other goods, many of them on the installment plan, experienced. Of course, many honorable merchants cannot be charged with these shortcomings, but there was deep resentment against such profiteering and unfairness.

As the writer walked through Hastings street the week of the rioting in Detroit, and later as he viewed many destroyed stores in Harlem, he saw wholesale evidence of the reaction of Negroes other than looters against white merchants. Inspection showed widespread attack upon business establishments over an area of more than eighty blocks.

In some places goods were scattered in the streets or destroyed. In a few cases, white storekeepers did not suffer because they were believed fair and considerate. In Detroit a request of an officer of the district merchants association for an expression of regret from Negro leaders went without response, although privately many condemned the looting.

That the destruction of property is one expression of racial group aggression is borne out by the fact that white mobsters in Beaumont, Texas, destroyed and looted Negro shops and homes.

Another underlying factor has been the strong resentment of the Negro people toward segregation in the U. S. Armed services and particularly the reports of harsh treatment of Negro soldiers by some white officers and local white civilians. Thousands of Negro soldiers have written home complaining of this situation in Army areas where they were stationed. Others, when on furlough, have told what they could not write.

Conviction Is Clear

These reports and conditions have created a strong conviction among Negroes that their men have been called to fight and die for the freedom of democracy while equality of treamtne, rights, and opportunities has been denied them. Furthermore, Negroes have resented the idea that when a soldier needed a blood transfusion to save his life from mortal wounds, race prejudice should require that he be served from a separate blood bank—a practice for which science gives no approval.

American Negroes have a growing feeling that "this is our war." Along with this feeling Negroes have a developing consciousness of their own worth as human beings and as American citizens.

They talk about a double victory at home and abroad. It requires no sage to sense their determination to achieve a larger share of freedom than came to them after the sacrifice of World War I. Along with this aspiration arise memories of the raw deal they and their forebears have had and aggressive reactions arise in the face of old caste restrictions and customs.

Thousands of Negroes in the armed services and among maritime workers are with the forces on the continents and islands over the seven seas. Their contacts and experiences with the colored peoples of Africa, Asia, and the Pacific are bringing knowledge and understanding to the millions at home about the struggles for freedom of other exploited, underprivileged peoples of color. Negroes of America have a growing sympathy and understanding of the fight for freedom from fear the forward march of mankind in and freedim of want.

As An Indian Sees It

School Sets Pattern For Democracy That Would Prevent Riots

BY KUMAR GOSHAL

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
AUG 14 1943

AS A MEMBER of the faculty of the School for Democracy, I spent last week in our vacation school held in the country. In the little village of Arcadia in upstate New York, 50 to 60 people gather in our school, spending their week's or two weeks' vacation in study and play. They are of all age groups, from children with their parents to elderly people; they come from many walks of life, and take courses in World Politics, American History, Life and Culture of the Negro People, and many other subjects, including arts and crafts. The week I was there we lived together, studied and played together, in perfect harmony. It was a fruitful week for me, and, I hope, an equally fruitful one for the students.



Mr. Goshal

After breakfast each morning the students gathered around Professor Frederic Ewen under a tall tree on the lawn next to the tennis court, and discussed the American theatre. And each evening, after supper, they met with me to study and discuss the problems of the colonial countries in the war and the post-war world. The morning sessions ended at 11 a.m. and the evening ones at 9:30 p.m.

DURING THE REST of the day, members of the community played games, or went swimming in the lovely pool on our grounds. Some studious ones read in the library, while others corralled the instructors and continued their discussions. The social committee, composed of volunteers from the student body, arranged a schedule of sports events during the day, and entertainments in the evening.

PRESENTS PLAY ON INDIAN PROBLEM

Among those who had come there to spend their vacation were workers in defense factories, students, teachers, and a fair sprinkling of artists and scientists. All of them showed a keen desire for knowledge and an amazing faculty for sympathetic understanding of the problems of other peoples. Yet their serious interest in world problems was leavened with an acute sense of humor and an appreciation of the art and culture of other countries.

ON SATURDAY night, at the end of the week, the social committee held a cabaret night, and the cast put on a skit written by a student and entitled "The Great God India, or How O'Neill Would Write a Play on India." In answer to a question in class about the sacred cows in India, I had explained how the cow, essential to the agricultural economy of the country, had become as precious to the Indians as the horse was to the early Americans; so the student playwright had introduced a Profane Cow as a character in the skit. I had the pleasure of playing the part of the Profane Cow which finally helped unite the Indian peasant and the British worker.

HEARD OF RIOT

On Sunday afternoon those who were about to leave and others who had just arrived to spend the following week listened to my friend and countryman, Rama—the son of the great Indian leader, Mme. Kamala Devi, who is now in prison—talk on Indian music, illustrating his speech with songs and accompanying himself on the Indian drums.

I RETURNED home late Sunday night. Monday morning, as I listened to the news broadcast, I heard of the explosion in Harlem, which immediately reminded me of the rioting in India. I also realized more fully than ever the necessity for more such gatherings as take place at our summer school. I will have more to say on this next week.

CITE 23 CITIES WHERE DANGERS OF RIOT EXIST

NOV 6 1943

Twenty-three cities in the United States where racial tensions are acute and where "danger of riots exists" are cited in a pamphlet "How To Prevent A Race Riot In Your Home Town," released last week by the American Civil Liberties Union, through its Committee Against Race Discrimination.

The cities named are Birmingham, Ala.; Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, Conn.; Chicago, Ill.; Indianapolis and Gary, Ind.; Alexandria, Baton Rouge and Shreveport, La.; Detroit, Mich.; Baltimore, Md.; Newark, N. J.; Columbus, O.; Phildelphia, Pittsburgh and Chester, Pa.; Providence, R. I.; Houston and Dallas, Tex.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Washington, D. C. In addition, there are scores of other war production centers and towns located near army camps which face similar dangers.

"Race riots not only can be prevented; they are being provented on an average of once a week," the pamphlet states. "It is all a matter of the know-how. Three weeks organization will set up committees and groups of responsible citizens who are willing to work to prevent what happened in Detroit: loss of 34 lives, 310 injuries, 1,505 arrests, loss of 1,000,000 man-hours, loss of 30 to 50, and in some neighborhoods, 90 per cent of retail sales, life savings of more than 200 shop-keepers, and destruction of more than $2,000,000.00 worth of property."

6 Steps Recommended

The pamphlet holds that riots can be prevented if the leaders of the community care enough about loss of life and property to spend a few weeks on the problem. Six steps are recommended:

1. A Public Relations Committee consisting of influential people should check with the chief of police, the mayor, and the governor as to what arrangements have been worked out for bringing in extra police and militia in the event of a riot.

2. Have the Public Relations Committee check with the chief of police on the policing of colored and mixed neighborhoods.

3. Ask citizens to report all rumors about racial trouble to a center designated by the Citizens Committee.

4. Provide jobs and war work for young people, both white and colored, some of whom otherwise might participate in race riots.

5. Set up an Information Committee which can be depended upon to provide reliable and authoritative information on local race relations.

6. A final emergency measure is to call in the aid of the clergy and of church members.

The pamphlet was written by Winifred Raushenbush, secretary of the Committee, who has investigated riots and riot causes and prevention in many parts of the United States.

The upsurge of interest in race riot prevention and in better race relations since the Detroit riot is astonishing, says Miss Raushenbush. The Rosenwald Fund lists 64 official interracial committees appointed by governors and mayos since then.

NEGRO PAPERS DON'T INCITE RACE RIOTS

Louisville, Ky.
Courier-Journal
AUG 5 1943

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

From Detroit we go to New York for a continuation of a dark and bloody siege which has moved the home front to the disadvantage of our united action against the enemies abroad. In Detroit it was the work of white and Negro hoodlums. In New York's Harlem it was all Negro. Both in Detroit and New York the provocation for the disgraceful outbreaks was negligible.

We in America are facing a situation made by disgraceful outbreaks which call for intelligent thinking and wise actions on the part of white and Negro leaders and their newspapers, and it is to that end that I take issue with the statements made by our usually liberal and fair Louisville daily papers in editorials following the Harlem affair. The Times said: "'Someday, perhaps Harlem will get really rough and in reports of the dead, injured and arrested will figure names of New York whites who were at a Negro ball when the fuss started." The Times is presuming to no small degree. I doubt that at the balls which the whites attended are found Negroes of the type who took over Harlem last Monday.

The Harlem outburst served as ammunition for The Courier-Journal to continue its indictment against certain newspapers as being the instigators of the riots, inter-racial or intra-racial, in its otherwise splendid editorial Tuesday morning. I have found no reason for these charges. This week the N.A.A.C.P. calls upon one other daily to show grounds for its charges against the papers.

The Negro papers have become almost full grown in the last few years. They are not only race papers, but newspapers published to give their readers the news they want and do their business at a profit. In this and in their independence and militancy they are following the pattern of the white American dailies. In investigating their news subjects and printing them, it is not their purpose to incite riots. During the years the daily papers, especially those South, have branded Negroes in their headlines and stories in cases in which they have turned out to be innocent, but no furore has been created among Negroes and the hoodlums have not been incited to riot.

Among the type of Negroes who rioted in Harlem a very small per cent read newspapers; but they know the war is on and they do hear talk of the discrimination against Negroes who are called upon to play an equal part in saving democracy. They do have employment contacts and they know that their opportunities are unequal. They know that there is a double standard of justice where whites and Negroes are concerned and that Negroes are grossly exploited. More than that, in the congested community of Harlem there is no restraint or restrictions on the young Negro hoodlums in regard to vice and crime. In Harlem, as in Louisville, the oldsters and youths from 16 to 21 crowd the joints nightly until the wee hours of the morning. They have access to liquor, good and bad, as long as their money lasts, and they put out a language of vulgarity and profanity under the nose of the law which should make the devil in Hades hide his face in shame. In all of this is dynamite that might explode even during normal times.

I. WILLIS COLE.

Louisville.

RIOTS CALLED "MANNA FROM HEAVEN FOR AXIS"

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
AUG 28 1943

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Aug. 26—Race riots in America create "a picture of conditions in our country that is manna from heaven to the Axis," according to a letter from Major Myron Weitz, of this city, serving in North Africa.

Major Weitz's sentiments were contained in a letter to McDermott's letter bag of the Cleveland Plaindealer for Monday, August 9, today.

PORTRAYS DISSENSION

Major Weitz wrote:

"Last night, for example, I had been reading in the recent newspapers and magazines all about the economic problems, that are at the root of the evil, strikes, the riots in Detroit, the always will be existent, are, in disharmony in the various government agencies. Naturally, when I went to bed I was a bit confused. I thought. The pictures of the

"I am not so ignorant of fact that I do not realize that certain things it should be fighting and should occur today. Everybody is home. I should not one goal only, and that is to win this war over here, and they sible time and then back home from the very things of man power.

"So what happens? Strikes to tie up industrial production when production is so vital. Riots doing the same thing to production and creating a picture of our country that is heaven to the Axis propaganda attempts to show that it would like one that the Axis-controlled rest of America and democracy, to say internal minority group dissension that it produces."

Biddle Lays Racial Clashes to Improper Housing

Attorney General States His Views On U. S. Riots

AUG 14 1943

Washington, Aug. 13 (AP)—Attorney General Biddle expressed the opinion today that improper housing and recreational facilities for both [illegible] has been a contributing factor to the Detroit riots and "other racial or hoodlum clashes" in recent months.

Biddle said it seemed to him to be advisable, therefore, that responsible officials give careful consideration to the availability of such facilities before taking any steps to fill manpower requirements in already congested areas.

Writes to Urban League.

Biddle made his observations in a letter to Lester B. Granger, executive [illegible] of the National Urban League, New York City, who had written to express concern over statements attributed to Biddle in reports to President Roosevelt on racial problems.

Granger said a story in the New York Post on August 9 created "a storm of discussion among white liberals, as well as Negroes," in that "many persons have leaped to the assumption that you have proposed to the President that the powers of the Federal Government be invoked to control the migration of Negroes as distinguished from other groups of war workers."

Biddle replied that any suggestions he made to the President were "strictly confidential" and that it would be "highly inappropriate" for him to comment on their contents.

He added:

"However, it seems to me appropriate to give you my views on the question of excluding Negroes from overcrowded areas, since your letter is particularly addressed to that question.

"Those who have made an objective study of the Detroit riots and other racial or hoodlum clashes are of the opinion that certainly one cause of the trouble springs from improper housing and recreational facilities for Negroes as well as for whites, particularly in the overcongested production centers. They believe also that it is extremely difficult for cities to absorb large migrations of war workers, whether Negro or white, over a [illegible] period; and that these migrations therefore necessarily contain the seeds for future dislocations."

Biddle told Granger he did not feel any effort should be made to prevent the free movement of individuals from one place to another, whether Negro or white, except as war requirements for manpower must be met.

Caviar & Cabbage

By M. Beaunorus Tolson

(THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THIS COLUMNIST DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE EDITORIAL OPINION OF THE WASHINGTON TRIBUNE.—THE EDITOR.)

The Time Has Passed For Words

Words! Words! Words! Seas and oceans of words! I am not talking about the words that come from enemies of Demorracy, in our midst, like Bilbo and Westbrook Pegler.

AUG 7 1943

I am talking about the words [illegible] men of good will. In times of peace, words have a pleasant sound. They soothe the ear of vanity. They lull the spirit to sleep.

But these are days of action. In the dark days of Britain, even the English got tired of the voice of Churchill. They wanted action. Even Mr. Churchill would have been kicked downstairs, if he hadn't matched the logic of words with the logic of ac[illegible]

AUG 7 1943

The riots at Beaumont and Detroit had barely died down. Out of the smoke and debris came two voices denouncing the rioters: the voices of Vice President Wallace and Wendell Willkie. They rang across the country. Then —— Then —— Then ——

THE HARLEM RIOT

Washington Tribune

The radio blared and the headlines shouted the news of a riot greater than those at Beaumont and Detroit. This —— in spite of the noble words of Mr. Wallace and Mr. Willkie.

AUG 7 1943

Words can not substitute for act[illegible]. There is no need of our sitting idly by, instead of doing our Constitutional duty. Let us get at the facts of these riots. There are certain definite, hard-rock facts. These must be faced by the powers that be, faced with action rather than the opium of words.

AUG 7 1943

The enemies of the Negro people have tried to lay the blame for these riots on three groups: (1) the Negro newspapers; (2) radical Negro intellectuals; (3) radical Whites.

AUG 7 1943

Such lies are obvious to any st[illegible]nt of social progress. It is an attempt to put a smoke-screen over the real issues and to obscure the basic facts.

The Rev. A. Clayton Powell summed up the Harlem riot in these words: "It is a blind, smouldering and unorganized resentment against Jim Crow treatment of Negro men in the armed forces and the usual high rents and costs of living forced upon Negroes in Harlem."

When that policeman shot that Negro soldier, the resentment of that seething city burst into flames. But the inflammable materials had been piling up for months and months.

Washington, D. C.

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

In this situation, certain facts must be considered and definite solutions put into operation. As I go over various lists of investigators, certain factors repeat themselves in Beaumont, Detroit, and Los Angeles:

First: White Southerners are crowding into our industrial centers, bringing with them their hide-bound prejudices; these apostles of Dixieland try to remake the North in the image of the South.

AUG 7 1943

Second: The workers in the lower brackets are revoltingly overcrowded, and these places become the breeding-beds of crimes and anti-social termites.

Third: The spirit of the Four Freedoms has saturated the Negro millions, and they have become a part of the Gulf Stream sweeping around the world.

Fourth: Jim Crowism in the Army and Navy and the mistreatment of Negro soldiers have filled millions of Negroes with bitterness. I may say here that it is not what the Negro newspapers say, *but what the Negro soldiers tell when they come home on furlough.*

Fifth: In many overcrowded centers there is an utter lack of recreational facilities.

AUG 7 1943

Sixth: Southern Whites resent the placing of Negroes in the higher brackets of skills and wages.

I say the time has passed for words. Action —— impartial, democratic, just —— is needed. Since Congress is controlled by reactionary Republicans and hard-shell Southerners, President Franklin D. Roosevelt must act!

61-1943
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

The Law That Is Not The Law

On last Friday morning Herschel Holmes, a Red Cap employed at the Atlanta Union Station, was fined $25.00 and costs in City Recorder's Court after being released from jail under $1,000 bond. Holmes was charged with "inciting to riot" upon the statement of a white bystander, following a flare-up between Negro soldiers and Police Officer Joe Moore, who was attempting to put down loud and boisterous behavior by the soldiers in the men's rest room.

It appears that the soldiers, who were awaiting arrival of their train, had furnished satisfactory and proper answers to questions put to them by Officer Moore, until he got down to the one as to where they were from. Whereupon one of them replied New York. Even then the officer didn't seem to sense any grave wrong or personal insult until a white bystander asked him "why don't you slap him?" Then and there Officer Moore proceeded to do as he was commanded to do.

You will note that we have thus far said not one word in justification of the behavior of either the soldiers or the Red Cap. In fact, loud and boisterous conduct is wholly indefensible in any person or group.

But here is the point we wish to make. Our experience on trains and buses and in other places, too, has shown that wherever there are flareups between civilian police and Negro soldiers, virtually every one of them was urged on, like this one at the Union Station, by some unconcerned individual.

Moreover, if and when a police officer decides upon some steps to be taken, most certainly slapping is not the step. And we question seriously whether an officer can be effective in his duties, who resorts to slapping.

Racial Melee in Savannah

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 2 (AP)—Armed military and civil police were called on to disperse a crowd which gathered Sunday when city policemen tried to arrest a Negro woman in West Broad Street near the Union Station. 9-3-43

Red Cap Is Fined, Accused Of Trying To Incite A Riot

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

JUL 17 1943

Claim He Aroused Group At Union Station; Soldier Reported Slapped By City Officer

Charged with attempting to incite a riot at the Union Station, Herschel Holmes, a Red Cap employed there, was fined $25 and costs in City Police Recorder W. A. Callaway's court Friday afternoon.

Holmes had been held in jail under $1,000 bond since early Thursday night when a dangerous situation developed at the railroad terminal.

City officers told the court that they were forced to draw their service revolves and seek additional aides to hold back a number of soldiers and civilians who attempted to enter the Colored Men's rest room where several soldiers were being questioned, one of them being slapped by a city policeman.

Officer Joe Moore, who works the Union Station beat, and another city policeman said they entered the Colored Men's rest room to find out why so much noise was being made there. They found a number of soldiers who told them that were having a little fun before their train came, it was testified.

ASKED FOR PASSES

The officers were then said to have told the soldiers that they couldn't keep u pthe noise there. The civilian police then asked the soldiers where were their passes, to which a reply was given that they were with the sergeant in charge of the traveling unit. Upon asking the soldiers where they were from, and receiving the reply from one that he was from New York, Officer Moore was said to have slapped the New Yorker, being urged by a white bystander to do so. A scuffle ensued and searches followed, it was testified.

The city officers then were stated to have ordered Holmes, who was in the rest room at the time to leave while they "straightened this out." Holmes replied that he worked there, but was ordered out.

When Holmes went out of the rest room into the waiting room Mr. Snelling, white, employed by the Army Air Corps, said he heard the Red Cap tell other soldiers that they had better go in and help their buddies who were being beaten up. Holmes, however, testified that he went straight out of the room and secured the station and train masters and railroad detectives

PUSHED TO ROOM

The city officers said they were rushed by soldiers from the waiting room and that colored civilians crowded around, forcing them to draw their revolvers.

Witnesses said that it was all the civilian policemen, a few military policemen and others could do to restrain the soldiers from retaliating to the actions of the city officers.

Three of the soldiers were sent to Police Headquarters on disorderly conduct charges (it was claimed they had small knives), but were returned to the station to join their unit after a few minutes.

Holmes said he continued at his work and that it was sometime later when Officer Moore and other police came to him and placed him in custody on the "attempting to incite riot" charge.

Several fellow employes of the accused man said they did not hear him utter such a statement as claimed by the city policemen. They felt the city officers were angered when Holmes reported the matter his superiors, the station and train masters, and sought revenge.

JUL 17 1943

Red Cap Reports Soldier-Police Trouble; Jailed As Riot Inciter

Atlanta, Ga.

ATLANTA, Ga., July 29—(ANP)—Charged with attempting to "incite a riot" at the Union station here, Herschel Holmes, a red cap and Morris Brown track star, was fined $25 and costs by Police Magistrate A. W. Callaway. Holmes was placed under a $1,000 bond upon his arrest. The charge grew out of a disturbance in the station between a civilian policemen and a group of soldiers, passing through the city, who were awaiting the arrival of their train.

The policeman, Joe Moore, according to witnesses, walked up to the soldiers and asked to see their passes, a common practice in Atlanta where Negro soldiers are concerned. The group attempted to explain they had no passes, that they were in the charge of a sergeant who had stepped out. They were then asked where they were from. One replied New York. Officer Moore was said to have slapped the New Yorker, being urged to do so by a white bystander. A scuffle ensued.

RED CAP ORDERED AWAY

Two other policemen arrived and urged Holmes to leave while "they straightened this matter out." Holmes departed in search of the stationmaster. En route, J. N. Snelling, white, employed by the Army Air Corps, said he heard the red cap tell the soldiers to go to the aid of their buddies who were being beaten up. Holmes denied making the statement.

The city officers testified that they were suddenly rushed by soldiers and a group of Negro civilians, forcing them to draw their revolvers. Three of the soldiers were arrested, but later released in time to catch their train.

JUL 17 1943

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Five Injured In Second Race Riot In Lake Charles

MAY 22 1943

MAY 22 1943

LAKE CHARLES, La.—For the second time in less than two weeks, racial friction has broken out here involving Negro soldiers, civilians and police. Five persons, three Negro soldiers and two white persons received injuries in a melee Thursday night.

After the outburst, Colonel H. L. Mace ordered that Negroes of one unit of the Lake Charles air field will be restricted indefinitely from the urban area.

A statement from officials of the airfield revealed that the fighting started about ten o'clock Wednesday night among Negro soldiers and civilians and lasted until 1:30 a.m., when all soldiers were rounded up and returned to the air field. The melee included the throwing of bottles and stones and a few shots being fired at passing civilians.

Colonel Mace stated that prompt action was being taken to get at the bottom of the trouble and to start military action against the guilty parties.

MAY 22 1943

There was no estimate as to the exact number in the riot except a statement of army officials that more than 100 soldiers were involved. The fighting was stopped when officials of the air field arrived on the scene and ordered all soldiers back to the base.

This is the second time that a similar disturbance has broken out in the past two weeks. The first of a more serious nature involved a general free for all between some five hundred Negroes and whites, many of whom were civilians.

Five Injured In Second Race Riot In Lake Charles

Chicago, Illinois Defender

MAY 22 1943

LAKE CHARLES, La.—For the second time in less than two weeks, racial friction has broken out here involving Negro soldiers, civilians and police. Five persons, three Negro soldiers and two white persons received injuries in a melee Thursday night.

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20 Jewish Youth Heads Denounce Detroit Riot

The Daily Worker New York, N. Y.

JUL 17 1943

"The insurrection in Detroit has struck every decent, honest American with a deep foreboding and shame," declared 20 Jewish youth leaders in a statement on the increased rise of anti-Negro, anti-Semitic sentiment especially among youth.

These leaders of Jewish youth pointed out that:

Racial conflicts in Detroit were not spontaneous but major links in the chain of subversive activities designed to disrupt American unity and the war effort.

Anti-Semitism and anti-Negro feeling are ominously similar in that the same social and economic conditions are responsible for both.

Most tragic is the large proportion of young people who took part in the rioting. Because of defeatist legislation which has blocked education; [illegible] training and recreational facilities, the[illegible]-agers are particularly vulnerable to false appeals.

JUL 17 1943

Necessary also is a cleaning up of the Detroit Police Department prosecution of those guilty of rioting, and indemnities to be paid to those suffering from property losses.

The representatives of prominent Jewish youth organizations who signed the statement were:

Ruth Applebaum, vice-president, Mount Sinai, Business and Professional Group; Bertha Belkin, president, Junior Home Relief; Pearl Dock, National Council Jewish Juniors; Betty Dvorman, student; Joe Epel, chairman, Migdol; Martha Gleicher, member Executive Board, Jewish Youth Forum; Henrietta Hassol, Mount Sinai, Business and Professional Group; Selma Jacobson, vice-president, Avukah; Isadore Katz, president, Avukah; Shonnie Kulka, national secretary, Migdol; Sora Levine, president, Hashomer Hatzeir; Leonard Raskin, treasurer, Migdol; Mildred Raskin, Mount Sinai, Business and Professional Group; Lillian Sloin, president, Jewish Youth Forum; Evelyn Sislin, vice-chairman, Migdol; Shirley Sleeper, midwest secretary, Avukah; Lillian Smerling, Sigma Theta Delta; Shirley Subar, president, Zionist Youth Council; Celia Wallerstein, president, Mount Sinai Business and Professional Group; Bertha Weil, member, Executive Board, Jewish Youth Forum.

JUL 17 1943

Probers Irked By Pleas For Racial Equality

Daily World Atlanta, Georgia

Group's Findings Are Denounced By NAACP President

AUG 15 1943

DETROIT—(A N P) — In a lengthy report submitted to Gov. Harry F. Kelly last week by his committee investigating the June 21 race riots here, Negro leaders who have "exhorted" gatherings to press for "racial equality" and the Negro press that has appealed for "justice by violence" are accused of being partly responsible for the debacle. The committee's report declared that "no subversive elements inspired the riot and asserting it held no premeditated."

Prosecutor William E. Dowling headed the investigating group known as the Dowling committee. He was assisted by Atty. Gen. Herbert J. Rushton. Detroit Police Commissioner Oscar Olander.

Pointing out that if the "tension existing between the white and Negro population" were eliminated the riots never would have occurred, claming the lives of 34 persons—25 of whom were Negroes—and injuries to 700 others, the report stated:

HIT MILITANCY

"Perhaps most significant in precipitating the racial tension existing in Detroit is the positive exhortation by many so-called responsible Negro leaders to be 'militant' in the struggle for racial equality."

An excerpt from a story by a writer for the Detroit Tribune is cited in the paper and charged with "clearly" constituting "an appeal to extract 'justice' by violence." The report went on:

"Such appeals unfortunately have been commonplace in the Negro newspaper. Can it be doubted that they played an important part in exciting the Negro people to the violence which resulted in Detroit on June 21?

"Some self-designated responsible Negro leaders must share with the colored newspapers responsibility for the unfortunate attitude of certain Negro elements."

Declaring itself as serving the single purpose of letting the public know the "whole truth" about the riot and asserting it held "conclusions of a conjectural or controversial nature" the report continued:

NOT PREMEDITATED

"This committee is of the firm conviction that both white and Negro rioters lacked preconceived premeditated organization. The spontaneity with which incidents occurred at various locations, both within and outside the affected area, discloses the absence of planning on the part of either group.

The committee delved into past incidents to find causes that may have helped explode violence between the two racial groups here. It held that:

"Certainly no criticism is to be made of the honest efforts of responsible leaders, both Negro and white, who seek by lawful means the removal of unjust barriers between the races. But it is equally certain that vigorous criticism should be directed to those irresponsible leaders, who by their words and conduct, actively inspire among their followers a disregard for law, order, and judicial process in seeking the racial equality to which they are entitled."

MUST FACE PROBLEM

Some Negro leaders, the report held, "have themselves demonstrated an anti-social and factional outlook, which, if carried to their followers, would account for militantly rebellious attitude of these elements." It said that all race leaders must face the ever-mounting social problem and expressed the hope it can be solved "but only be determined, straightforward, sociological measures."

"Past reluctance to face the problem has bred distrust and suspicion magnifying actual and presumed grievances minimizing the responsibility and duty to properly constituted government and social order," asserted the review.

Conclusions set forth in the Dowling document are:

1. "The riot was not planned or premeditated."

2. "The riot was not inspired by enemy subversive influence."

3. "The riot resulted from smoldering racial tension which was inflamed as the result of several disconnected incidents on Belle Isle, provoked by a group of Negroes."

4. "The looting and accompanying rioting followed the spreading of a false, inflammatory rumor by Tipton, to the effect that whites had killed a colored woman and her child on Belle Isle."

5. "Irresponsible white and Negro youths were responsible for most of the casualties and the damage resulting."

6. "The ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with the law violators."

HIT BY McLENDON

Dr. James McLendon, president of the local branch NAACP, in a statement vigorously denounced and opposed the findings of the governor's investigating committee but declared that this was no time for extended argumentation. He said the law abiding Negro and white citizens of Detroit in cooperation with legal and other city officials must band together to rebuild the community from the debris.

Gov. Kelly also received a report from Dr. C. F. Ramsey, director, state department of public welfare, on interviews and psychological studies made of 340 persons arrested.

Of the persons interviewed Ramsey said none were recent migrants to the city and 74 per cent have lived here for five years or more. Most of them held jobs with more than two thirds in war plants with an average weekly wage of $54.

Almost 40 per cent of the prisoners had high school education and 45 per cent were married, the report stated. About 25 per cent were illiterate and 13 per cent displayed emotional qualities or psychopathic tendencies. Eighteen per cent had been rejected for military service.

THREE ARE HELD

all "The interviewed men," said ever Dr. Ramsey, "were not the insti-ex- gators, nor did they seem to have any previous knowledge of planned action, but became involved mainly out of their individual reaction to the situation."

Meanwhile three Negroes accused in the Dowling report with spreading inflammatory rumors are either being held by police for trial or are under sentence. They are Aaron Fox, 17, and Charles Lyons, 20, charged with the actual starting of the riot "because they wanted to even the score for being ejected from Eastwood park five days before by a group of white youths." The other person is Leo Lipton (the Tipton referred to in the Dowling report) a check room attendant at the Forest club, a hot spot in "Paradise Valley," who allegedly seized a microphone and shouted to a group of dancers:

"This is Sgt. Fuller. There's a riot at Belle Isle. The whites have killed a colored lady and baby. Thrown them over the bridge. Everybody get their hat and coat and come on. There is free transportation outside."

The Sgt. Fuller referred to is a well known Negro policeman in the district. Gov. Kelly's committee however declared that "there is no suggestion that this police sergeant was in any way connected with Tipton's announcement.

Lyons is serving a term of two to five years in State prison for breaking and looting a Hastings street store the second night of the rioting. Fox is awaiting trial on a charge of aggrevated assault. Tipton, according to attachees of the local jail, will be charged with inciting to riot.

14 DETROIT KILLINGS CAN'T GO UNPUNISHED

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

JUL 24 1943

Fifth Column Name Ford In Of Detroit Riot

Daily World Atlanta, Georgia

SEP 9 1943

Accuse Auto Magnate Of Aid To Nazi Backers

700 CASES DISMISSED

Of the more than 1,800 riot cases originally scheduled for trial, it is understood 1,100 persons, as late as Saturday, were awaiting trial—and about 700 were found guilty or were dismissed. Two colored and one white were dismissed. Two colored organizations—the NAACP and the Civil Rights association—have offered legal defense for many of the Negroes arrested.

Almost 40 per cent of the prisoners had high school education and 45 per cent were married, the report stated. About 25 per cent were illiterate and 13 per cent displayed emotional qualities or psychopathic tendencies. Eighteen per cent had been rejected for military service.

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DETROIT, July 22—Thirty-five persons met death during the recent Detroit rioting—25 of whom were colored and one of whom may not have died directly at the hands of the mob, but whose body was found in the Detroit river—but cannot be officially explained as having been murdered, Motor City police are still unable to "account" for 14 of the 34 deaths officially ascribed to rioting causes.

For the 19 victims definitely attached to the riots various explanations are given by police, who allege some were shot by them while looting stores, others while resisting arrest or attacking officers, and still others were killed or from rocks or other types of attacks by rioters themselves.

—GRAND JURY PROBE PUSHED

George Edis, Councilman and one soldier and one boy, the Michigan State Negroes challenge these only, reminding that Negroes, victims of riot- received private treat- they feared further they came out to go pital hospital.

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development of plans de to remedy the bad- ions generally admit- provided fuel for the which bad conditions adequate parks and facilities for Negroes congested housing, re- te communities to ac- egro tenants or Negro jects, and an inade- r of Negro policemen

DETROIT— (ANP)— Fifth column activities with the patronage of Henry Ford in Detroit were behind the June race riots, the hate strikes in many war plants and other subversive movements that obstruct to country's war effort declared Albert E. Kahn, secretary of the American Council Against Nazi propaganda, Sunday before a gathering of more than 400 delegates representing labor, civic and social organizations at the Civil Rights federation conference. Kahn urged the group to get a federal grand jury investigation of riots as soon as possible.

Kahn, one of the authors of the book, "Sabotage," said: "I believe that one of the reasons there has been loss action against fifth columnists in Detroit is because most of them work for Ford.

"Back in 1923 it was common knowledge that Ford was helping to finance the infant Nazi party.

"The so-called Protocols of Zion alleging a jewish world plot, were published in the Dearborn Independent controlled by Ford and William J. Cameron

"Fritz Kuhn and other Nazi agents were employed at Ford's and Kuhn organized his Germany American bund in Detroit while in Ford's employ.

"John Cuse, a Ukranian Nazi, who sent Hitler a telegram of congratulations when he invaded the Balkans is still in the employ of the Ford Motor company.

"Father Coughlin organized a company union for Ford, and the company bought 15,000 copies a week of Coughlin's magazine, 'Social Justice.'

"These are some of the connections between Ford and the 5th column in this city. The company also to Parker Sage, Virgil Chandler, Harvey Henson, Charles Spire, klan leader and the Sons United of America. Their two chief officers David Cole, secretary, and Morey, president, are employed at Ford's.

"There is still anti-Jewish and anti-Negro propaganda being spread throughout the plants of the arsenal of democracy (Detroit) and the occurrence of racial disturbances may result."

The conference suggested that other contributing forces of the recreation, and unfair employment riots were inadequate housing practices.

called on Governor Kelly of Michigan to remove Special Prosecutor William Dowling on charges of "bias, bigotry and intolerance and to replace him with a prosecutor who will do his duty."

By Tom Dombrowski

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, July 28.—A storm of protest followed the irresponsible charges made by Prosecutor William Dowling that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Negro press were the biggest instigators of the anti-Negro insurrection which took the lives of 35 individuals, 28 of them Negro. Dowling made the accusation during a discussion with a subcommittee of the Mayor's Inter-Racial Committee which demanded a grand jury investigation. The prosecutor refused to grant the request for an investigation charging insufficient evidence.

Not only did Dowling charge the NAACP with the responsibility for the riots but he also blamed them for the Sojourner Truth riots and exonerated the Ku Klux Klan of all responsibility in the Packard anti-Negro strike stating that only 600 Klansmen remained in the state.

R. J. THOMAS BLASTS OFFICIAL

R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO who had called for an investigation by a grand jury and had stated that he had evidence of the participation of the Klan in the riots issued a blistering statement in which he characterized Dowling's statements as "the most serious incitation to race riots we have had since the riots themselves. . . . They sound like the hysterical alibi of a public official who neither cannot or will not do his duty."

He rose to the defense of the NAACP when he asserted that "the NAACP is an organization of which all Americans, regardless of race or color, may be proud. It includes among its warm supporters and members Wendell L. Willkie, Judge Ira W. Jayne, Justice Frank Murphy, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and Herbert H. Lehman."

Thomas reiterated his demand for a grand jury investigation stating that "it is "obvious, however that Mr. Dowling's office is not the one to conduct an investigation."

Louis Mattin, editor of the Michigan "Chroncile" and member of the Mayor's Inter-Racial Committee replied to the charge made by Dowling. Martin said: "It is indeed unfortunate that Mr. Dowling should so maliciously use the NAACP and the Negro press as a combined red herring to cover up his own inefficiency and irresponsibility. As a matter of fact both of these organizations worked to prevent the riot by consistently exposing the undemocratic and anti-Negro forces in the city long before June 20.

He charged that Dowling "has deliberately reincited the people and has disqualified himself as prosecutor of Wayne County."

In a sttaement issued to the press by Walter White, the national secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People labeled the Dowling accusation against the organization as an "attempt to excuse the dereliction by blaming trouble on those who for years have pleaded that the laws be enforced.

"We not only welcome but we have pleaded for a grand jury investigation," says White in answer to the charge that the NAACP "will be named on the first indictment" if the grand jury is called for being the biggest instigator of the recent race riot.

"The irresponsible statements of Prosecutor Dowling might well have come from Martin Dies himself," declared Shelton Tappes, recording secretary of Ford Local 600, UAW-CIO and one of the city's most prominent labor leaders. Tappes, himself a Negro, described Dowling's statements to the Mayor's Inter-Racial Committee as the "best reason in the world to call a grand jury."

RIPS DOWLING STORY

Tappes expressed the feelings of many trade union and civic leaders when he asked the prosecutor to answer the questions as to the whereabouts of Parker Sage, Virgil Chandler and Garland Alderman charged with the responsibility for the Sojourner Truth riots during the riots and during the Packard strike. These men had been indicted by the Federal government although yesterday, Dowling claimed that the NAACP had "sent in their thugs to start trouble in the Sojourner Truth situation and then protected them when I tried to bring them to justice."

"But everybody in Detroit knows that the riots were a direct aid to the Axis," added Tappes, "and that it is utter stupidity on the part of law enforcement agencies of any kind to fail to pursue every possible line of inquiry to get to the bottom of this amazingly well-timed disruption of our war effort. Such a line of inquiry is a grand jury investigation, and I join thousands of Detroiters in demanding that it be held."

Young White Hoodlums Admit Murder During Detroit Riots

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Confessions Obtained From Two

Call

Kansas City, Mo.

Admit Shooting 5 -Year-Old Man Just for 'Sport'

DETROIT, Mich.—A story of wanton murder is recounted by three white youths in their alleged confession of participating in the slaying of a 58-year old colored man during the race riots here of June 21-22. Special Prosecutor William E. Dowling has announced.

According to the account of the slaying as told by the youths, their victim, Moses Kiska was shot in cold blood, without a chance to protect his life.

The only motive the slayers had for perpetrating the dastardly crime was to "get us some Niggers," the prosecutor related.

SHOT AT CORNER

The three youths, two of them teen age, explained that Kiska was shot down as he waited for a street car at Mack avenue and Chene street. Kiska's death was one of 34 resulting from the rioting and one of 13 which had been listed as "unsolved."

Confessions of Aldo Trani, 16, Armendo Mastantuono, 20, and Anthony Soraceno, 24, solved the slaying of Kiska, Dowling said. Formal charges were withheld, he added, until questioning of a fourth youth, also held, is completed.

Lieut. Charles Muckholdt, of the police homicide squad, described the four youths as "typical of young hoodlum gangs," and said he had never heard of "a homicide so utterly vicious and without provocation."

According to the story exacted from the boys, Bowling said, the youths decided to "go and get us some Niggers."

Mastanuono had a rifle and as they drove along in a car they saw Kiska waiting at a street car zone. Trani said "Give me the gun," the prosecutor related, and then he leaned out of the car and fired.

The colored man fell to the street and the boys drove away and separated.

Mastanuono was inducted into the Army two weeks after the riots, Dowling said, and was AWOL when arrested last week.

DETROIT. — (ANP) — Prosecutor William E. Dowling revealed last week that confessions had been obtained from two of four hoodlum whites who told him "the story of cold-blooded murder" of a Negro citizen during the riots of June 21.

The prosecutor said that Aldo Trani, 16, and Armendo Mastantuano, 20, confessed the killing of Moses Kiska, 58 years old, who was shot down by the quick trigger mobsters as he waited for a street car.

Dowling said he was also holding Leo Tipton, who will be charged with inciting to riot. Spreading of false rumors has been responsible, according to city officials, for much of the racial disorders here that caused the death of 34 persons, 25 of whom were Negroes, and $400,000 damage to personal and real property.

The story taken from Trani and Mastantuano, according to Dowling, was as follows:

"They saw two other youths, whom they said they knew as Bob and Blackie. The four of them got in the car and decided to 'go and get us some niggers.'

"Mastantuano had a rifle. They saw Kiska waiting in the street car zone. Trani said to his companion, 'Give me the gun.' He leaned out of the car and fired. They saw Kiska grab his chest and topple over . They drove away and then separated.

Formal charges against the two hoodlums have been withheld pending outcome of questioning of the other youths held. Meantime city courts were reported busy clearing the docket of 1,010 misdemeanor and felony cases with the circuit court of Wayne county aiding. Estimates have it that two

Aroused Citizens Blast Prosecutor

Daily Worker

Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, yesterday

NEGRO PRESS LEADERS BLAMED FOR RIOTING

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Michigan Governor's Commission Issues Report Ignoring Part in Riot Played by Police and White Citizens; Names NAACP and Courier

By JOHN T. WILLIAMS
(Staff Correspondent)

MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich., Aug. 19—It was not subversive elements, but the exhortations of Negro leaders and the Negro press for "racial equality" which set off the sparks causing the bloody race rioting of June 21. Such was the sensational conclusion of Gov. Harry F. Kelly's fact-finding commission in a 312-page report released here last week.

In an obvious endeavor to place the blame for the outbreak squarely on the shoulders of Negroes, the four-man committee reiterated the conclusion originally broached by the Detroit prosecutor and police commissioner, charging the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Negro press with inciting the rioting.

WOULD WHITEWASH DETROIT POLICE

Some see in the report an attempt to avoid a grand jury probe of the riot because the Governor's commission is composed of the same police officials who have consistently blamed Negroes for setting fire to the "smoldering racial tension," which is known to have existed in Detroit for a long time.

The report was signed by Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling, Police Commissioner John E. Witherspoon, Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton, and State Police Commissioner Oscar Olander.

The NAACP charges the report is an attempt by law enforcement officials to "whitewash" the derelictions of the Detroit police by blaming the Negro.

In the text of the report accusations are directed against all types of Negroes from teen-agers to editors, civic leaders and heads of various organizations, and fully one-third of the report gives minute details of "disconnected incidents provoked by Negroes," but violence by whites is dismissed in a single short paragraph.

The report fails to give any details of the killings of 33 Negroes, 17 slain by police. Nor does it give any details of the 1500 persons arrested, of whom 85 per cent were colored.

Part III of the report blames Negro leaders, press and organizations for "inspiring" the riot. It quotes the complete text of Warren Brown's infamous article in the January Reader's Digest, "A Warning to the Negro Press," and charges The Pittsburgh Courier, Michigan Chronicle and Detroit Tribune with being "true counterparts of newspapers described by Brown."

It denounces the "Victory at home and abroad" idea of The Courier and names the NAACP and March on Washington Movement as inciting the rioters. The text of the report also refers to protests against the jim-crow Red Cross blood bank plan as a probable incitement.

The report concludes, "The committee believes that positive action should be taken by both Negro and white leaders, and especially the press, to avoid publication of statements calculated to inflame and excite racial animosity, anti-social complexes and disregard of legal process."

WHITE COLUMNIST ANSWERS CRITICS

The committee's report was condemned editorially by the Detroit Free Press, fearless morning newspaper, although it was given editorial approbation in the Detroit News. Paradoxically, on the editorial pages of The News the same day appeared an article on the subject by W. W. Kelsey, of the Detroit News staff.

Mr. Kelsey wrote:

"UNCOMFORTALBE QUESTIONS

The attitude of the Negro press, charged by the committee with beating the drums of racial prejudice, inequality, intolerance and discrimination, is due simply to the fact that such prejudice, inequality, intolerance and discrimination exist. The white press has been inclined to ignore the existence of these things. They are uncomfortable questions. It adopts the same attitude toward them which it formerly adopted toward the labor movement. The Commentator remembers coal strikes in Kentucky and West Virginia and steel strikes in Pennsylvania in which inquiring reporters were told to get to hell out of there, because the owners were going to handle affairs in their own way; and the press took it lying down, in the most cowardly fashion. A few courageous weeklies of small circulation dared tell the truth. The attitude of the white press on the question of color is not so pusillanimous; it does discuss the matter from time to time. But its general policy is to prefer to let sleeping dogs lie—until open strife develops, and it is compelled to think about the situation.

When a lynching occurs, the white press reports it in a few lines; it is an inflammatory topic, likely to arouse not only Negroes, but Northern whites against Southern whites. But the Negro feels directly concerned; it is another instance of inequality and intolerance, and therefore the Negro press reports it in full. Similarly with instances of police discrimination, and other examples of unfair treatment. The Negroes feel they have a good case, and they build it up with recurring evidence. Nobody else is going to do it for them. They are the people immediately concerned.

The charge is that the Negro press not only reports such incidents, but takes an inflammatory editorial attitude. That, the Commentator submits, is natural. But it is also unwise. The Negro can accomplish nothing by force, in a country where he constitutes but one-tenth of the population. An attempt to do so merely solidifies the whites against him, not only because of the racial line of separation, but because the use of violence is contrary to law, and the majority is in favor of the law when it is on the majority's side.

The Commentator finds, to his surprise, The Pittsburgh Courier mentioned with two Detroit Negro newspapers. He knows little about the local sheets, but he is familiar with The Courier. If the committee had studied it, it would have found that its writers constantly denounce hoodlumism and hooliganism among Negroes, and plead for better understanding between the races.

ATTITUDE OF THE NAACP

The NAACP is of course a thorn in the flesh of the peace authorities, as are the Civil Liberties Union and other organizations created for minority protection. But do the authorities never make mistakes? Do they never discriminate? Do they always act impartially? The Commentator, for one, doubts: he has seen considerable of police departments in his time, and he has found them constituted of human beings whose conduct is not always dictated by the highest motives.

THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY

It is true that the number of crimes committed by Negroes is far out of proportion. But the committee doesn't tell why. Is it due to natural depravity, lack of education, lack of environmental controls, an inferiority feeling? How many of these crimes can be attributed to racial feeling, and how many are occasioned by trouble among the Negroes themselves? The mere statement explains nothing; it does not even hint at the underlying reasons, and because of this failure it is not helpful.

The Commentator stated, in his preamble that the committee did not draw attention to the basic factors. What are they? They are the Declaration of Independence, which contains the philosophy on which we claim independence and nationhood, and the Constitution, which implements that philosophy. In neither is there any recognition of the superiority of the white race, or its right to discriminate against the Negro. We still assert proudly that all men are created equal, and are endowed with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We still claim that all persons born or naturalized in the United States are equal citizens. Such is the theory; but is it the practice? Not while there is racial discrimination in opportunity for education and econonic betterment."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

HOW LEADING DAILIES FEEL ABOUT RECENT DETROIT RIOTS

(By the Associated Negro Press)

Immediately after and during the recent debacle at Detroit between Negroes and whites, the nation's daily newspapers carried editorials, some sublime, others ridiculous concerning that dark event.

Most generally the trouble was attributed to poor housing conditions, lack of adequate recreational facilities and economic injustices besetting the Negro population of the war plant center. However, some editors seized upon the occasion to vent their spleen toward other matters.

Col. Fred Sullens, publisher of the Jackson, Miss., Daily News felt compelled to use the race riot for an attack upon Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. He commented editorially:

"It is blood on your hands, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

"More than any other person, you are morally responsible for those race riots in Detroit where two dozen were killed and fully 500 injured in nearly a solid day of street fighting.

"You have been personally proclaiming and practicing social equality at the White House and wherever you go, Mrs. Roosevelt.

"In Detroit, a city noted for the growing impudence and insolence of its Negro population, an attempt was made to put your preachments into practice, Mrs. Roosevelt.

"Blood on your hand, Mrs. Roosevelt! And the damned spot won't wash out, either."

The liberal Chicago Sun declared:

"Certain practical steps can be taken to reduce some of the immediate causes of past rioting. To relieve overcrowding, both of white and Negro workers, there must be as much new war housing as the needs of war industries permit. Labor and management must educate white war workers in the elements of racial democracy. Local police must be alert to quell any outcropping of violence at its inception. Federal and local investigators should discover to what extent riots may have been inspired by Ku-Kluxers or other subversive agents."

The Richmond News-Leader, emphatic in its stand, said:

"Every American who has command of his intellectual faculties ought to know that the nation can't take the Negro youth out of the country, put it in the army, demand full service of every Negro in the name of patriotism, and then expect the Negro to seek the economic justice, the fair play and the honorable opportunity for which he is supposed to fight.

"These things can and wil' be had without rioting or uprising which, in the end, must make his plight worse instead of better.

On the New York Times editorial page appeared the following comment:

"The Detroit riots have smeared a dark blot on this country's good name at the very moment when it could be of the most assistance to the enemy, and at the very point where it could be most effective. Detroit, with its vast auto-motive industries, is the key city in our "arsenal of democracy." Now the news goes all over the world, to North Africa, among the dark-skinned and brown-skinned peoples of India and the South Pacific Islands, among the yellow-skinned peoples of Burma, Malaya, Indo-China, Thailand, China and Korea, that black-skinned people are killing and being killed by white-skinned people in free America. These riots, and others resembling them in kind if not in magnitude, show that a certain fraction of our own people have reverted to the jungle.

"There is a job for the FBI in Detroit. There is also a job for a congressional committee or

mayor, police chief prosecutor should understand that be acceptable for uphold the law and order at all times." **Raleigh News and Observer** said:

"Every business public body with any power of subpoena and funds, patience and time to trace every underlying cause of this outbreak. The well-wishing majority in Detroit to do the quiet, fair-minded, dramatic things that riots before they start."

Chicago's Daily News asserted:

"No matter how congestion and other economic evils may be, public policy and private conduct must be subordinated to the interest of the war. All other interests must be subordinated to that interest. Good Americans will make it a business to see that they are not only guiltless of any conduct which would impair relations between groups or races, but do everything in their power to preserve order at all times. It should remain isolated. All Americans of all races have the same part of others.

The Raleigh News and Observer said:

"Fortunately, this incident is isolated. All Americans and all creeds have the same

"Reports from Detroit attribute the rioting to activities of the Ku Klux Klan. If that discredited and un-American organization is in fact responsible, its leaders should be dealt with summarily."

Memphis' Commercial Appeal tied the Detroit riots up with alleged "luring" of farm labor from the South to northern industrial areas. It said:

"Verily, it is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and the Detroit riots, deplorable as they are, will have one beneficial effect: the labor pirates who have been circulating in the midsouth luring farm labor so badly needed for the nation's food and food production to the northern industrial centers will find their work more difficult."

The Chicago Tribune saw a chance to denounce "Union Now" advocates and observed:

"An important lesson can be drawn by the American people from this ugly incident. If we cannot maintain an enduring peace in this country between races whose members have lived in the same communities, recognizing the same laws and customs for many decades, what chance is there for an amicable future if America is tied in an organic union with other countries whose peoples know nothing about our language and our institutions? The rash enthusiasts who are confident that Americans can work in unbroken friendship with Tartars, Bushmen, Chinese and Hindus, have something to learn from the incidents in Detroit and Los Angeles.

"Over the years since the Civil war, despite occasional acts of violence, the relations between the races in America have improved but we still have far to go before the problem can be regarded as solved. The advocates of super-governments are asking us to believe that what we have not yet succeeded in accomplishing in America can be achieved with the stroke of a pen on an international treaty. Their thoughtless optimism is scarcely to be distinguished from insanity."

Axis Radio Enjoys Field Day With Riot Reports

Defender
Chicago, Illinois
JUL 3 1943

NEW YORK — The Axis radio enjoyed a field day at the expense of America in reporting the Detroit race riots.

Typical of the broadcasts was one from Rome in French which said:

"Franklin D. Roosevelt spends many hours a day considering the anti-strike bill—'to sign or not to sign'—and now in Detroit a riot takes place. Hundreds of blacks and whites exchange fisticuffs, then gunshots.

"The U. S. is a democratic country, and there is no race prejudice. Roosevelt sent a strong body of troops to put down the disorder. How big an army should Roosevelt send to the area?

"The U. S. is now being revealed in its true lights. A model country!"

The Nazi-controlled Vichy radio said that the Detroit riots were symptomatic of "the internal disorganization of a country torn by social injustice, race hatreds, regional disputes, the violence of an irritated proletariat and the gangsterism of a capitalistic people." The broadcast was recorded by Columbia Broadcasting system.

It declared the rioting to be both a handicap to war production and an indication of the scope of "the moral and social crisis in the United States."

"The first of all it evidences the small interest a great part of the American population shows in the war. In the present state the United States do not seem very justified in their ambition of Americanizing the world and of making the 20th century an American century. Before the start of the war, President Roosevelt already loved to preach to Europe, while at the same time fostering the divisions profitable to his imperialistic policy.

"Today, on the morrow of the bloody incidents of Detroit, the French people, imbued with a sense of social justice, realize the dangers for European civilization inherent in the American aims of world domination."

Two Lessons from the Detroit Riot

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md
DEC 25 1943

(From "Race Riot" by Lee and Humphrey)

Do not ignore the less cultured and even the stupid and depraved elements of your city. "These are the people who may terrify you in the next race riot. What they think, what they do with their time, what can be done to restrain or neutralize their anti-colored and anti-white feelings—these should be primary concerns of an anti-race-riot program."

Many of the most violent assaults on colored people in the Detroit riots were "perpetrated by hoodlums in their late twenties and thirties." A former member of the city's arson squad told one of the authors:

"The whites that do most of the car burning on Woodward Avenue were from gangs of Italians, Syrians and others who hang around bars and pool rooms and in peacetime pull false alarms and that sort of thing.

Don't Ignore Organizations

"Almost all of them have police records. And it was the same type of colored man who did most of the fire-setting in Paradise Valley."

DEC 25 1943

Do not ignore existing interracial organizations, especially if they have healthy roots. "The promoters of a riot-prevention program can save themselves a lot of groundwork and the antagonism likely to arise from duplication by pumping new life into an existing civic or governmental organization rather than by setting up a competing new one.

"This does not mean . . . that an unworkable program with incompetent functionaries should be perpetuated. Investigate the existing foundations and build upon them, if possible."

He Who Got Slapped In Detroit Tells How Cops Held Him For Rioting Mob

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
JUL 3 1943

DETROIT, Mich.—He who got slapped—Sam Mitchell, the Negro victim in the much-publicized newspaper picture which shows him held by two policemen while a white hoodlum swings at him—told his version of the incident last week.

Mitchell, a veteran of the Meuse-Argonne sectors in World War I, denied vehemently police claims that they tried to defend him, or were supporting him. He says very openly that he was held by the two cops while eight or nine hoodlums took turns striking him in the face and head.

JUL 3 1943

The thug, whom the camera happened to catch in the act of slapping the Negro was later identified as George Miller, 31 years old, an ex-convict with a police record. On the evidence supplied by the camera, he was convicted and sentenced to 90 days in the House of Correction.

"The cops grabbed my arms and led me out into the street when I ran to them, yelling that I had been shot," Mitchell said. "They made no effort to defend me against the mob of 200 or 300 people who had been chasing me along Woodward Eight or nine men ran up and hit me while the cops held my arms."

"As soon as I could, I broke away from the officers and ran. I ran South on Woodward with the crowd again chasing me. A scout car drove up at last and I shouted for help again. The officers in it pulled me inside, pushed the mob back with the car and took me to Receiving hospital."

JUL 3 1943

Mitchell is 47 years old. He has been employed as a caretaker by the Bankers Trust company for 18 years. He served in World War I as a corporal in the 317th Ammunition Train and was under fire in the St. Die and Meuse-Argonne Sectrs. He was with the First American Army in the occupation of the German Rhineland. He holds an excellent-character discharge.

FACTS AND FANCIES

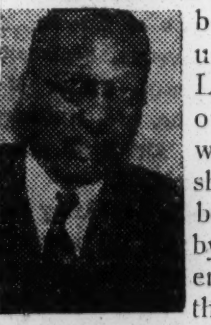
Tribune
AUG 21 1943

By EUSTACE GAY

The Whitewash Brush

Philadelphia, Pa.

It has taken four leading Michigan officials 8500 words to explain the recent riot in Detroit and to apportion the blame. As usual, WE LOSE. Most of the killed were colored—shot and clubbed to death by the police, enforcers of the law. Most of the injured were colored sent to hospital as the result of being beaten by policemen and white rioters. Most of those arrested were colored—arrested by the same police, who could only see the Negro to be held and shoot and to apprehend. Nevertheless, say these four Michigan officials, "militant" colored leaders and colored newspapers are to blame for the riot.



Gay

The failure of the State and City to take steps to forestall a happening, which ALL who were not blind could see in the offing—this is overlooked.

The K. K. K., the thousands of southerners, led by a Southern preacher; Gerald L. K. Smith and his group—these and other organized forces openly preaching anti-Negro tenets—these do not share the blame.

Detroit's official leaders have the mantle of respectability wrapped around them—they share none of the blame.

Where whites are to blame, they were "irresponsible"; where colored are to blame—they were "responsible" leaders, who should have known better than to believe that America was fighting for the extension of democratic principles throughout the world—including DETROIT.

"Responsible" leaders—who sought equality of opportunity to earn a living for human beings whose only sin was a black skin.

"Responsible" leaders—who wanted human beings with black skins to have decent homes in which to live.

"Responsible leaders"—who believed that the "Four Freedoms was more than a scrap of paper.

Meanwhile these four officials—each derelict in the performance of his duty before the riot put their brush of white paint to the responsible public officials, and their much larger anatomy to blame "irresponsible" whites and Negroes, and "responsible" colored leaders and "responsible" colored newspapers. The "responsible" leaders in Detroit and one else. shoulder none of the blame—for all that is due Americans they were and are paragons of virtue. Like the ostrich, these four men stick their small

Imposed On 2 Negroes

to from four to five years' impris- to Belle Island, a recreation park Comment each. in the Detroit River. The prosecu-

Sentence was pronounced on them by Judge John J. Maher after the men had spent a week in county jail without bail following their

For Detroit Rioting

ing of this rumor which touched off the race rioting which took the lives of 25 Negroes and 9 whites.

— Leo Tipton, convic- 21, convic- and one man. charges of being rt of Detroit's having 0-21, were sen- Negro woman and baby had Court Friday been thrown from a bridge leading

4 And 5 Year Terms

Race riots

61-1943

Michigan

Expose of Detroit Spy Ring Proves Fascist Riot Charges

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

AUG 4 - 1943

Indicted Seditionist Had Worked at Plant Where Anti-Negro Strike Took Place

The Fifth Column-Fascist menace, recently shouted down as having nothing to do with the [illegible] race riots in Detroit, came forward as stark reality last week when FBI agents rounded up key members of a Nazi spy ring in the Motor City, one of whom was a forty-four-year-old YWCA secretary.

The FBI dragnet hauled in some interesting fish. There was Theresa Behrens, secretary of the International Center of the Detroit YWCA; Dr. Fred W. Thomas, a leading obstetrician, who reportedly has treated some of the town's socialites, and Countess Marianne von Moltke, wife of an instructor at the city-owned Wayne University.

Fancy Facts

It was only a little over a week ago, that Police Commissioner Witherspoon and Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling, members of a four-man committee appointed by Governor Kelly to "fact-find" on the causes behind the riots reported "the ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators."

Negro leaders and the Negro press were, according to the report, responsible for the riots because of "militancy" which led to agitation and unrest.

Mayor Ignored

Walter White and the NAACP pointed out from the first that the riots were not spontaneous outbreaks, but planned disturbances. Mayor Edward Jeffries and City Councilman George Edwards asked for the creation of a special one-man jury to further investigate the riot-causes, but were overridden by the majority of the body.

Councilman Gus Dorais, former Detroit University football coach, stated that police and FBI haders; "done everything possible" to bring the instigators of the riots to justice and that continued investigation would only stir up more racial trouble.

The Witherspoon-Dowling-Doraissix anti-Negro policies fostered by triumvirate has been conspicuous by its silence since the FBI arrests of the Nazi agents. The following facts might have contributed to their lack of eloquence on the subject:

- Theresa Behrens, the YWCA secretary, has been linked definitely to the National Workers League, a seditious organization, the secretary of which is now under indictment for his part in the Sojourner Truth housing project riots in 1942;
- Parker Sage, the secretary under indictment, was formerly employee of the United States Rubber Company when a CIO strike against Negro workers took place in the plant, and an anti-Negro campaign was circulated;
- Parker Sage has been exposed as a Fascist agent in *"Under Cover,"* the book tearing and protecting veil from fifth column and fascist activity in America;
- the Department of Justice has proof that Dr. Fred W. Thomas wrote a letter to a Ford Motor Company official asking that Sage be given employment in order that 'without creating suspicion' he could gain the confidence of workers;
- the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant already has had FEPC charges filed against it by Local 600 of the United Automobile Workers outlining a series of anti-Communist propaganda to mask their real motives. Proof of this is contained in a letter taken from the files of the National Workers League recommending Parker Sage for a job at Ford Motors because he was a fighter of Communism;
- the letter was written by Charles W. Chill, secretary of the central committee of German-American societies to a Ford plant official using Dr. Fred Thomas' name as a reference.

Dies Dumped

Meanwhile, FBI special agent, John S. Bugas shoved the Dies Committee out of the running with the statement that:

"The Dies Committee never gave us two cents worth of aid on this case and we don't need any of its assistance."

He was referring to the Committee's boast that it had aided bringing to justice the Nazi agents.

AUG 4 1943

2 Arrested, Seek To Jail Senator Diggs

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Claim Negro Solon Asked $6,000 Bribe; Call Cops Cowards; Fisher Cited

By T. JOHN WOOD

DETROIT — What appears to be an effort to intimidate Negroes and smear their leaders resulted last week in the arrest of two Negro police officers for allegedly failing to prevent the June 20-21 riot, the disarming of a Negro Deputy Sheriff by two city policemen, a threat to arrest a newspaperman for criticizing Prosecutor William E. Dowling, and a warrant demanding the arrest of State Senator Charles C. Diggs for allegedly offering to accept a bribe for his vote on the anti-Branch Chain Banking Bill.

With feeling still running high over the alleged riot report which held Negroes, and particularly Negro youth, responsible for the June 20-21 incident, these important developments in "the case against the Negro" were recorded here last week:

Important Developments

1: Police Commissioner John Witherspoon suspended, and held in $5,000 bail, Patrolmen Jesse Stewart and William M. Williams who are charged with neglect of duty on the night of last June 20 when, according to the charges, they did not arrest Leo Tipton, held on charges of inciting to riot over a public address system at the Forest Club where a dance was in progress;

2. Two city policemen disarmed Deputy Sheriff Petry Fisher and charged him with drunkenness;

3: Leroy G. White, representaive of the White Newspaper Syndicate was threatened with arrest by a Negro investigator from Prosecutor Dowling's office when White criticized Dowling's alleged report on the causes of the riot; and

4: A warrant charging State Senator Charles C. Diggs with soliciting a $6,000 bribe in connection with the anti-Branch Chain Banking Bill was sought in Recorders Court and will be acted upon this week. Also named in the warrant demand was State Senator Charles S. Blondy (white) the first state official cited in the legislative-bribery investigation which got under way three weeks ago.

Charged With "Cowardice"

The two patrolmen were suspended last Tuesday and are scheduled to appear before the Police Trial Board this week to answer to charges of "cowardice" and "failure to do their duty" on the night of June 20 when, according to the charges, they failed to arrest Leo Tipton who is accused by the Prosecutor of reporting over a public address system that a Negro woman and her baby had been murdered by whites on Belle Isle. This incident, according to the Dowling report, was the cause of Negroes rioting, although the same report states that rioting had been in progress two hours before the statement was allegedly made.

Stewart and Williams are the only police officers cited for failure to do their duty in the riot, although scores of pictures showing policemen protecting white mobbists have been published in newspapers and magazines throughout the country. The two are formal university athletes, Stewart, a University of Michigan graduate, and Williams a graduate of New York University. Stewart has eight citations; Williams two.

Stewart joined the force in December, 1940; Williams in January, 1942.

The suspension charges state that both officers, though off duty, had their guns and badges while attending a dance at the Forest Club, but refused to arrest Tipton when he allegedly made the inflamatory statement while posing as Sgt. Fuller of the Police Department.

Testifying before Judge John P. Scallen, Williams said he called the police station for help immediately after the disturbance broke out at the Forest Club, but, according to Inspector Chester P. Cox, who demanded suspensions, no such call was received at headquarters.

No Tipton Witnesses

According to information from the Prosecutor's office, neither Stewart nor Williams would testify that it was Tipton who addressed the audi-ence over the loud speaker. The same source said that, to date, Dowling has no witnesses to support the charges against Tipton.

Immediately after the two officers were suspended and held, both Negro and white attorneys made efforts to have the bail reduced. It was charged that bail was excessive and in view of the reputations of the two Policemen and their records a group of people near the Club Zombra went to Recognition examination.

Threatened With Arrest

White said he was talking with Edward A. Baker, head of an advertising firm, when Smith, over hearing the conversation, told White "I ought to throw you in the clink for publishing Syndicate, talking like that . . . You Negroes are just by Andymay as well make up your minds to

Disarm Negro Deputy

Deputy Sheriff Petry Fisher, who is receiving hospital for an examination. The hospital report states that Fisher immediately after the two officers were suspended and held, both Negro and white attorneys made efforts to have the bail reduced. It was charged that bail was excessive and in view of the reputations of the two Policemen and their records a group of people near the Club Zombra went to Recognition examination.

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Disarm Negro Deputy

Deputy Sheriff Petry Fisher, who is receiving hospital for an examination. The hospital report states that there was no evidence

get along with these white folk the best way you can."

White challenged Smith to arrest him, but Smith seemed satisfied with threatening White. Smith was praised by Dowling for his part in accumulating evidence which resulted in the report that Negroes started the riot.

Seek Diggs Arrest

The warrant for Senator Diggs' arrest was drawn by the legislative-bribery grand jury being conducted in Lansing by Circuit Judge Leland W. Carr under an old common law which requires the complaining witness to be placed on the witness stand before a warrant can be issued.

Direct accusation against Diggs was made by Adrain McGonagle, controller of the Detroit Bank. McGonagle testified that Diggs asked him to come to his office and there offered his and Senator Blondy's vote on the banking bill in return for a "little campaign contribution." McGonable said Diggs and Blondy said they could guarantee three votes for $6,000. However, McGonagle said, he later called Diggs and told him the deal was off and Diggs told him it was O. K.

Diggs denied that he had solicited a bribe, as did Blondy who is now serving a sixty-day jail term in the Ingram County jail for contempt as a result of testimony given before the grand jury three weeks ago.

Smear, Intimidation Seen

Leaders here said it was evident that efforts are being made to intimidate and smear the Negro leadership which continues to clamor for a Federal Grand Jury investigation of the riot. It was recalled that Diggs was not brought into the legislative-bribery investigation until Dowling entered the case. Diggs has been severely critical of Dowling's report.

In suspending Stewart and Williams the Police Department selected the two most outstanding Negro members of the law enforcement body. Both men were outstanding athletes in their college days and in all police field meets have walked off with top honors. Neither has ever been brought before the Police Trial Board and both have been commended for conduct as police officers.

Fisher has been a Deputy Sheriff since the election of Sheriff Andrew W. Baird, and recently led a movement to prevent the return of a Negro to Tennessee where he is charged with the murder of a white man.

Detroit Police Head Quits

John F. Witherspoon, Detroit police commissioner who sought to blame Negro organizations and newspapers for the July race riot, has resigned effective Jan. 1. Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., named John F. Ballenger, general superintendent of public welfare, to succeed Witherspoon and appointed Witherspoon to direct the legal battle over the city's proposed $10,000,000 a year utilities tax for postwar improvements.

Amsterdam. Star-News
New York, N. Y.

AUG 21 1943

Detroit Riot Photo Display

"SCOTTY" WILLEN, creator of [illegible] United Electrical Workers exhibit, 80 Willoughby St., Brooklyn, points out some of the Detroit riot pictures to spectators. The pictures, painted on a huge swastika, form part of an exhibit that has as its theme Negro rights and is intended to counteract some of the anti-racial feeling in this country. Photographs from Army, Navy and the WACs give a cross section of the fine work done by Negroes in the armed forces. The exhibit will be open until August 15 week-days until 8:30 p. m.



Fighting for Re-election, Mayor Jeffries Invokes Hatreds

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

Detroit Verges on Race Riot As Campaign Waxes Dirty

DETROIT—(FP)—In the dirtiest campaign ever waged against a labor candidate in Detroit, Mayor Edward Jeffries jr. has attempted to whip up anti-Negro sentiment and anti-union feeling in order to win re-election. Long hailed as a progressive politician who honored the name of his liberal father the late Judge Edward Jeffries, the mayor appears to have decided on a reckless game of racial incitement as the only course to recover from his disastrous primary race. In the primary Jeffries got less than 60,000 votes, carrying only three wards, while Frank Fitzgerald, indorsed by both AFL and CIO, got almost 100,000 and carried 19 wards.

Jeffries' campaign strategy consists of blaming the Negroes for the riots of June 21 and whining that the minorities by which he means labor and the Negroes, are against him. He ignores the obvious fact that the workers, both white and colored, constitute the overwhelming majority of Detroit's voters.

Meanwhile observers expressed fears that the June 21 debacle will flare anew with race tension still high and the injection of racial prejudice into the mayoralty race. The Detroit Free Press, a local daily, added to the confucion and encouragement of hate by declaring in a bold-type editorial last week that "both Negroes and whites are equally guilty in this bloody conspiracy to influence the vote in the mayoralty election."

This city, which earned the sobriquet "Dynamite City" after the race riots last summer that took a toll of 34 lives, 25 of them Negro, most of whom were shot in the backs by Jeffries' police officers, has never recovered its nerves, and the election campaign with its emphasis on race has further threatened the dove of peace.

Opposition to Jeffries by Negroes after the riots was viewed in political circles as a certainty, because they blamed him for failing to insist that the police do an efficient, impartial job in quelling the disturbance. When Jeffries later said Negro hoodlums caused the riots their determination to oust him from office increased.

Immediately Jeffries began to raise the spectre of "minority groups" and openly appealed to the prejudices of white citizens. He charged a conspiracy to take over city hall by Negroes and the UAW, and urged white voters to prevent their alleged coup.

Fitzgerald, despite the heavy vote Negroes piled up for him, has callously tried to deny their support and has even promised to appoint Police Superintendent Berg commissioner if elected, in an effort to appease reactionary whites. Berg was in charge of the police during the recent riots.

White Trio Held In S. C. Shooting

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Two White Men and Woman Charged With Shooting

DETROIT—Four white young men admitted they had a rifle and some fun [illegible] Police said the youths displayed more concern over [illegible] shooting of Kiska, than "ordinary men would show at going out to shoot clay pigeons."

According to William Dowling, prosecutor, three of the accused on June 21st. Armendo Mastantuano, 20 years old was named as the owner of the rifle. Others held were Aldo Trani, 16; Armando Mastantuono, 20; Robert Cattone, 17; Anthony Saraceno, 18; and Ralph Tancredi, 20.

Kiska, 58-year old Negro during the recent race riots here, was shot while waiting for a street car.

From The New Republic Mail Bag

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Detroit Public Library, shortly after the race riots, published a leaflet, a copy of which they have sent us, addressed as follows, to the Citizens of Detroit: "The events of the week of June 20 charge every one of us with the responsibility of examining our own beliefs, conduct and expressions so that the common effort of all will insure that the inalienable rights of man never again be so trampled." The leaflet contains short quotations on racial intolerance and discrimination from Abraham Lincoln, Franz Boas, E. A. Hooton, Wendell Willkie and many others, and presents a reading list of books and publications on race questions, headed by Carey McWilliams' "Brothers Under the Skin." We are informed that the leaflet met with an enthusiastic response from the citizens of Detroit, and that thousands of copies have been printed and distributed. The New Republic extends its heartiest congratulations to the Detroit Public Library on taking a step which all other cultural and educational institutions might well follow.

Age
New York, N. Y.

5 White Youths Held For Killing Negro During Detroit Riot

DETROIT, Mich. — Five white youths on Saturday, were ordered held for trial in the Recorder's Court on first degree murder charges in connection with the killing of Moses Kiska, 58-year-old Negro, during the race riots of June 21 which resulted in the death of 25 Negroes and nine whites.

Kiska was killed as he stood in a traffic safety zone waiting to board a trolley. The shot which killed him came from an automobile in which the five white youths were riding.

The youths held are Aldo Trani, 16; Armando Mastantuono, 20; Robert Cattone, 17; Anthony Saraceno, 18; and Ralph Tancredi, 20.

Letters from Our Readers

The opinions expressed in these letters are those of the readers and not of the paper. We welcome letters from our readers and their friends on subjects of current interest. To facilitate the printing of as many letters as possible, and to allow for the freest discussion, please limit letters to 300 words.

The Daily Worker

James W. Ford Straightens the Record

July 2, 1943.

Editor, Daily Worker:

While I am glad to see the alertness of the **Daily Worker** in defending the interests of the victims of the recent rioting in Detroit, I think the editorial, entitled, "Rot in Detroit," in the July 1 issue of the **Daily Worker** was confusing and inadvertently made for unjust criticism of able, highly respected men and women who constitute the 12-member inter-racial committee appointed by Mayor Jeffries.

The Mayor appointed the committee "to study the race situation in Detroit," aggravated by the anti-Negro "insurrection" and "to work out a program to prevent any possibility of its recurrence."

The **Daily Worker** editorial did not make clear what committee it was referring to.

A story in the **New York Times** of June 30, ascribed to members of the inter-racial committee statements which are in contrast with their well-known opinions and actions.

What are the facts about the committees and the appointment of committees to deal with the Detroit situation?

First of all Governor Kelly appointed a fact-finding committee to make a preliminary investigation and report to him whether this was a planned riot or whether it was the result of Axis influence upon certain persons in Wayne County." That committee consisted of Attorney-General Herbert J. Rushton; Prosecutor Dowling; Police Commissioner Witherspoon and Commissioner of State Police Oscar G. Orlander.

On June 25 the Governor's fact-finding committee made its report and found no need for federal or Grand Jury investigation "because of lack of information to plan-ning or inspired enemy influence."

Whereupon Governor Kelly accepted the findings of the committee and dismissed it.

Clearly the findings of the Governor's committee were aimed at whitewashing the whole situation, absolving the KKK and other subversive groups and covering up the criminal responsibilities, inadequacies and connivance of certain city, county and state officials.

About the same time Mayor Jeffries appointed a 12-member inter-racial committee. This committee is headed by William J. Norton, executive vice-president and executive secretary of the Children's Fund of Michigan. In addition to Mr. Norton, the committee members are: the Rev. Charles A. Hill, Negro, chairman of the inter-racial Citizens Committee and pastor of the Hartford Ave. Baptist Church; Louis E. Martin, 268 Eliot St., Negro, editor of the Michigan **Chronicle**; Mrs. Beulah Whitby, 358 Josephine Ave., Negro, executive secretary of the emergency welfare services, Detroit Office of Civilian Defense; Walter Harding, Negro, director, inter-racial division, UAW-CIO; Charles H. Mahoney, Negro, of the State Department of Labor; the Rev. George W. Baber, Negro, 550 Mt. Vernon Ave.; Eugene Schaeffer, chairman of the board of the Urban League; Fred M. Butzel, attorney; the Rev. Benjamin Jay Bush, D.D., minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Adelia Starrett, member of the Public Welfare Commission; John F. Ballenger, superintendent of public welfare.

These members have so far demonstrated, that they are highly responsible citizens. The fault of the committee is not the fault of the members. Responsibility for the committee's lack of power lies at the door of Mayor Jeffries. He too, like Governor Kelly, pushes aside the need for Federal and Grand Jury investigation. He, too, desires to whitewash the whole situation, absolve his official family and cover up his own weakness and vacillation in handling the riot situation.

While still demanding Federal and Grand Jury investigation, all patriotic Americans must stand behind the members of the inter-racial committee and help to strengthen its work. Every scrap of information or possible evidence which in any way identifies or leads to identification of those responsible in any way for perpetrating this fifth column conspiracy, should be placed in the hands of the inter-racial committee. The committee should be strengthened by being given the power of subpoenaing witnesses and of enforcing the revelation of any and all information it thinks necessary.

The committee could be strengthened further by the addition of one or more official representatives of the trade unions, CIO and AFL. There should be a representative of the NAACP and other responsible organizations of the Negro people. There definitely should be added to the committee a representative of youth organizations.

Various organizations of the people should further facilitate the work of the inter-racial committee, in ferreting out the fifth column, by conducting their own investigations and submitting their findings to the committee.

The inter-racial committee meanwhile should give attention to the many problems of relief of victims of the riot. It may be said that the committee met already last Monday and took steps:

(1) To keep Federal troops in Detroit through the Fourth of July.

(2) To meet with Police Commissioner Witherspoon to establish a better attitude of the police toward Negroes.

(3) To make a survey of all public-settlement projects.

(4) To try out inter-racial ideas which have been planned and studied.

Comradely yours,

JAMES W. FORD.

Regular Subscriber

Everett, Mass.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Following a recent discussion with a fellow worker on the race riots in Detroit I showed him the Daily Worker editorial and articles concerning the disgraceful incident in American life.

He acknowledged the "Daily" reportage of the case to be the best he had seen in any paper, and as a result I am selling him The Worker every week.

R. FISHER.

Pro-Fascist Lauds Detroit Prosecutor's Negro-Baiting

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By Tom Dombrowski

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Aug. 1. — Prosecutor William Dowling got the praise of Virgil Chandler in the columns of a metropolitan daily for his inciting anti-Negro statements last week. Chandler said "Dowling hit the nail squarely on the head." Chandler ought to know. He is now under indictment charged with seditious conspiracy in the Sojourner Truth riotes.

This is the same Virgil Chandler who has used the City Hall for a forum to expound his racist theories on housing while enjoying liberty still granted him since he was indicted in April, 1942. Honest citizens have been disturbed that up to the present time he has not been tried by the same authorities who have been repeating that the June 20 insurrection was a "spontaneous outbreak."

Chandler was pleased that Dowling exonerated the Ku Klux Klan and the other subversive forces which organized the Sojourner Truth riots. Dowling charged that it was "thugs sent by the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People" that were responsible.

IN SOJOURNER TRUTH RIOT

Here is what Chandler, whitewashed by Dowling of his responsibility in the Sojourner Truth riots said when he addressed an audience of the National Workers League. A subversive organization under indictment by the Federal authorities. The stenographic notes of his speech appeared in a pamphlet issued by the Civil Rights Federation last year entitled "Smash Michigan's Fifth Column."

He was introduced by Parker Sage, organizer of the League, in the following manner: "Ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce the executive vice-president of that gallant organization of Americans, (the 'Seven-Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association—I. D.) who at this moment are fighting to keep dirty n——s out of the Sojourner Truth Homes here in Detroit. Here he is the big fella, Virgil Chandler!"

Then the "big fella," who admires Dowling, spoke. "You see, it was nine months ago that the government begin to make up its mind who was going to live there, us who had been living there a long time or the n——gs Well, the n——gs got the Communists on their side and so you have a race riot.

THREATENS NEGROES

"I came over to the National Workers League to get some help. Today the government decided, for keeps, they say, that the n—— was gonna live in the Sojourner Truth project.

"Well, we'll see about that. We are going to throw a picket line so thick about the place that there will be an eclipse of the sun. I want all you white folks who believe like us to be over there with whatever you can carry in your hands. If these blacks think they can bluff us we're going to give them another Fourth of July."

So spoke this admirer of Prosecutor Dowling. It is obvious why he who urged people to come to the Sojourner Truth Project "with whatever you can carry in your hands" should appreciate Dowlings race-inciting pronouncements.

The **Daily Worker** reporter had been at the scene of the Sojourner Truth riots and had observed the form of organization. A gang leader led the mobs with iron bars, clubs and bats, and gave instructions. It was exactly like the June 20 riot. The police behaved in the same manner, treating the Negroes brutally while ignoring the violence of the whites. The Sojourner Truth riots were a rehearsal for the June 20 riots.

MAYOR SPEAKS UP

Following the newest intemperate outburst made by Dowling, Mayor Jeffries finally came out for a grand jury investigation, half-heartedly qualifying his stand by stating that he did not think it would do any good. Some quarters feel that Jeffries made the move to strengthen his position against Dowling, who is expected to run for mayor. After a dramatic announcement that "one of the chief inciters of the riot" had been found, Dowling produced a Negro. Leo Tipton, who

THREE HOODLUMS CONFESS

Three hoodlums have confessed to the cold-blooded murder of a Negro woman and her baby had to date. That seems to me sufficient cause to call a jury," he stated. He added that the Reading Belle Isle. This, claims Dowling, was responsible for the ensuing violence waiting for a grand jury, which exposed the conspiracy to unearth evidence. "get" some Negroes, theyand needed more white. The other "There are 13 murders unsolved over was announced over the local press. A call to one company, the Budd Manufacturing Company Wheel Company reported to have appeared in the Detroit Times. The NAACP has also charged Dowling still refuses to grant a ruption within the city. was called said. They were arrested, after a firm that placed such ads is the grand jury probe, declaring thaton the basis of a letter from a Ku-Wolverine Fabricating Company. there is insufficient evidence. Yourwoman who committed suicida month-long investigation by a Ne- reporter spoke to a prominent De- From then on, the grand jury dis- gro policeman detailed on the case. troit attorney who informed him covered evidence that brought Ads asking for men and women that the purpose of the grand jury workers with the word "white" "currently refusing employment to many convictions and arrests. prominently displayed have ap-both Negro men and women.

Since Dowling's statement, reports indicate that talk of a "day of reckoning" has revived considerably. With Chandler's implied endorsement of Dowling's statement, it is obvious that the Fifth Column has been encouraged and heartened.

Flood Of Detroit Protests Condemn Smear Blast Of Prosecutor Dowling

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

AUG 7 1943

DETROIT, Mich.—Negroes and whites joined this week in blasting charges of race-baiting Wayne County Prosecutor William E. Dowling "that Negroes were responsible for the Detroit riot."

The N.A.A.C.P., the United Automobile Workers, CIO, and others immediately assailed Dowling's "intemperate" statement declaring that it increased rather than relieved racial tension and that he was using his "race" charge as a cover-up for his own department deficiencies.

Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. executive secretary, issued a statement saying, "Dowling's intemperate outburst reveals one of the reasons for the riot, the miserable failure of law-enforcement officials to do their job and then attempt to excuse their dereliction by blaming trouble on those who pleaded for years that the laws be enforced . . . is disgusting."

The N.A.A.C.P. as well as the Negro press were attacked in the Dowling charge, which came in answer to a request by a sub-group of Mayor Edward Jeffries interracial committee asking for the appointment of a special one-man grand jury to investigate the riots. A comment by Rev. Baber, member of committee, that he had turned over evidence to the N.A.A.C.P. touched off Dowling's smear blast which in turn has brought the flood of protests.

Demands Facts

The Detroit Free Press, for example commanding editorially, has demanded that Dowling either support his charges or retract them. Up to now he has done neither, but he has stood adamant in his refusal to appoint a special grand jury.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the N.A.A.C.P., in supporting the contention for a special investigation says that, "the association has collected affidavits that are more than sufficient to justify calling of a special grand jury."

After delaying for weeks, timid, vascillating Mayor Edward Jeffries, whose bungling mismanagement of Detroit's housing problem is blamed by many as a contributing factor to the riots, has come out in favor of a grand jury investigation.

The mayor told the Detroit City Council that he did not have much faith that a special jury would produce more facts than have thus been turned up, but that it would have a "good psychological effect." He felt that it might demonstrate to the city and the country that Detroit is doing everything it can to track down those responsible for the deaths and disorders.

The mayor's half-hearted suggestion however failed to win immediate approval of the city council. A majority of the council took the view that no action should be taken until Prosecutor Dowling has made public a promised report both on the riot and on his reasons for opposing the special grand jury.

Dowling's position is supported by John H. Witherspoon, Detroit police commissioner, who admitting police prejudice, sees no reason for a special investigation.

Joins Dowling

In a statement attempting to vindicate his department, Witherspoon also puts the blame for the trouble on Negroes. Claiming that during the first eight hours "all the rioting was done by Negroes," is his method of explaining large scale arrests of race men while taking relatively few whites into custody. Witherspoon also produced records purporting to show that twice as many whites were injured as Negroes.

Official records do show that out of 25 Negroes killed 16 died at the hands of the police; 3 were reported shot while looting, three shot in gun battle with police, and one shot after assaulting a policeman.

While faltering attempts which smell of the whitewash are being made to conduct some type of investigation on the part of city officials all is calm once more in Paradise Valley, principal section of the city's segregated Negro district. But neither Paradise Valley nor the rest of Detroit is forgetting the flareups.

Competent observers believe that the tensions cannot be entirely relieved until both white and colored residents of Detroit can have confidence again in their city officials.

In line with this thinking and charging the Detroit police with lawlessness, the American Civil Liberties Union Committee Against Race Discrimination, wired Attorney General Biddle asking for federal investigation of the riot.

AUG 7 1943

Detroit Riot Aid To Enemy, Says WPB Head

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Pointing to the far-reaching costs of the rioting in Detroit, Joseph D. Keenan, WPB vice chairman for labor production, called on labor and management there and in every war industry center to get together with other civic groups to correct the causes of racial strife.

JUL 10 1943

"America suffered a serious setback on the production front in Detroit this week. Preliminary estimates indicates that the rioting directly caused absences from work totalling more than one million manhours. That is only a small part of the total cost to war production. These absences caused stoppage on the tranmission lines and conveyor belts in many plants. Productivity of individual workers was likewise impaired.

"From a preliminary survey, we estimate that the two days of senseless rioting in that one city cost the nation a worse setback in the production of planes, tanks, material and other equipment than it had suffered from all the labor disputes in the entire nation in the first two months of this year.

"The rioting will cost our fighting men much needed equipment."

Riot Slaying in Detroit Solved

AUG 5 1943

Three Youths Confess Killing Man As He Waited at Streetcar Stop

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Detroit—Three youth, two of them teen-aged, have confessed to participating in the slaying of a fifty-eight-year-old Negro in the Detroit race riots June 21, Prosecutor William E. Dowling announced today.

AUG 5 1943

Dowling said the youths told him a "story of cold-blooded murder" in recounting how the Negro, Moses Kiska, was shot down as he waited for a street car at Mack Avenue and Chene Street. Kiska's death was one of 34 police attributed to the rioting and one of 13 which had been listed as unsolved.

Confessions of Aldo Trani, 16 years old, Armendo Mastantuono, 20, and Anthony Sarceno, 18, solved the slaying of Kiska, Dowling declared. Formal charges were withheld, he said, until questioning of a fourth youth, also held, is completed.

Lieutenant Charles Muckholdt of the police homicide squad, described the four youth as "typical of young hoodlum gangs," and said he had never heard of "a homicide so utterly vicious and without provocation."

According to the boys' story, Dowling said, the youths decided to "go and get some niggers." Mastantuono had a rifle and as they rode along in a car they saw Kiska waiting in a streetcar zone. Trani said "give me the gun," Dowling related, and then he leaned out of the car and fired. Kiska fell to the street and the boys drove away and separated.

AUG 5 1943

Mastantuono was inducted into the Army two weeks after the riots, Dowling said, and was A.W.O.L. when arrested Wednesday.—Enquirer.

Nab 4 For Riot Killing In Detroit

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

AUG 7 1943

DETROIT — Justice was snapping at the heels of at least four of the recent Detroit rioters this week with announcement by Homicide Inspector John O. Whitman that he will seek murder warrants against four youths held by police for participation in the June flare-up.

Police said the youths confessed that they cruised about the city streets with a .22-calibre rifle, seeking to shoot Negroes. Dt. Sgt. Charles Buckholdt, said 16-year-old Aldo Trani, one of the group, admitted firing the shot that killed Moses Kiska, 59, as he was waiting for a street car.

Buckholdt expressed the belief that the youth also shot and killed Charles Grundy, another colored victim, slain an hour after Kiska was shot. All four youths were questioned by Prosecutor William E. Dowling, it was stated, and their stories were checked.

Later Dowling said, three of the prisoners confessed "the cold blooded murder" of Kiska. Two of the youths—Trani and Armendo Mastantuono, 20—acted as spokesman, and pieced together, Dowling said, this is the story he got from them.

"Trani and Mastantuono were out driving and stopped at one of their favorite hangouts. AUG 7 1943

"They saw the two other youths, whom they said they knew as 'Bob' and 'Blackie.' The four got in the car and decided to 'go out and get some n - - - - -s.'

"Mastantuono had a rifle. At Mack and Chene streets they saw Kiska waiting in the street car zone. Trani said to his companion, 'give me the gnn.' He leaned out of the car and fired. They saw Kiska topple over. They drove away and separated."

Shortly after the confessions of the white youths, police took into custody Leo Tipton, colored, described by Dowling as one of the key figures of the riots. Dowling said Tipton seized a public address microphone at a gathering of 500 Negroes late on the evening of June 20, and shouted:

AUG 7 1943

"Everybody come on; there is a riot at Belle Isle and they have killed a colored lady and her baby." Tipton will be charged with inciting to riot, Prosecutor Dowling said.

Anti-Negro Cases

New York, N. Y.

In support of Judge Jonah Goldstein's charge to the grand jury to investigate instances of discrimination in New York and Detroit after of discrimination in New York and weeks in Detroit, Thurgood Marshall has asked that the effort was made to enforce laws Marshall. NAACP special counsel, attorney have the cases benefitting and prosecuting Negroes spent 2 1-2 and presented to the and other minority groups."

Discussing Goldstein's recent the causes of the De-charge. Marshall observed, "A number of weakness of law enforcement said Marshall whothorough investigation of instances the district attorney of discrimination in New York and ending its victims and prosecution of the offenders will the cause, "was the help destroy racial tension."

JUL 17 1943

NAACP Supplies N. Y. District Atty. With

New York Age

Dies Finds a Star Witness in Riots; Guess Who? It's Gerald L. K. Smith

PM
New York, N. Y.

Detroit's Rabble Rouser Says He Knows Whodunit

By Elizabeth Donahue
PM's Bureau

JUL 6 1943

WASHINGTON, July 6 —Gerald L. K. Smith, Detroit's rabble-rousing pro-Fascist orator, turned up in the Capital today. He says he came here to tell Martin Dies who started the Detroit race riots. But he won't tell us.

Dies' projected investigation of "racial antagonism" is next on the Committee's agenda after it finishes up an "expose" of the War Relocation Authority (WRA).

Smith told PM he had submitted the name of a "white man" who precipitated the Detroit riots to the Dies Committee, the FBI and a few chosen Congressmen.

Wants Army Probe

In a guessing game with a PM reporter Smith said:

"The man isn't colored and h isn't part of the fancy tale the Com munists are telling about who an how the riots started."

JUL 6 1943

Smith said he hadn't conferre with Dies personally, but added " have invited the Committee to in vestigate the whole thing." He an nounced he would also like to have the mysterious white man investi gated by the Army and Navy Intelligence Service.

Smith, whose revelations prob ably will be the backbone of the Dies investigation, will be remembered among other things for his battle cry:

"Will We Permit The Reds To Jail Father Coughlin?"

He was also associated with a journalistic venture known as the Cross And The Flag, which was started to fill the void left by Father Coughlin's *Social Justice*.

It's Quite Formal

As for the instigation of the Detroit riots, Smith warned:

"It is better that I withhold the name until it gets into the *Congressional Record* or you might be sued for

JUL 6 1943

Smith issued a typewritten release formally announcing that he had given Dies the dope.

The statement also denied that Smith, who described himself as director of the America First Party, had started the riots himself. He said 14 left-wing organizations had made that charge. He is indignant.

Smith's handout wound up by "publicly appealing" to Vice President Wallace to call off a speech scheduled for Detroit late this month.

Smith is going back to Detroit today.

Poles Started Detroit Riot

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

JUL 17 1943

Sunday evening, June 27, over 600 persons attending the mass meeting in the New England Mutual Hall, Clarendon St., for the promotion of American-Soviet friendship and the commeration of Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union ewre startled by the charge made by Professor Louis Kapinski of the University of Wisconsin that reactionary, Fascist Poles were incited to mob violence against Negro Americans in Detroit in order to disrupt war production and thereby sabotage Lend-Lease aid to the embattled Russian people who are so heroically resisting the Nazi invaders of the Soviet Union.

JUL 17 1943

FEPC Men Rescued from Mob in Detroit

JUL 3 1943

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Maceo Hubbard Tells How Crowd Broke Car Window; Mayor Declined to Call Troops for Their Protection

WASHINGTON

Returning to Washington Friday from Detroit, where he narrowly escaped being beaten by one of the city's raging mobs on Bloody Monday, Maceo Hubbard, FEPC field representative, hit the delay in calling in troops to quell the rioting.

Hubbard said that he and Jack Burke, a white FEPC representative, attended a meeting of Detroit's colored leaders on Monday noon at the Lucy Thurman YMCA, when they urged Mayor Edward Jefferies to call in the troops.

The mayor, according to Hubbard, declared that he did not feel that such extreme action would be necessary and that local police could control the situation.

JUL 3 1943

Upon leaving the meeting, Hubbard said, he and Burke started back to the FEPC office.

Detoured Colored Area

"We detoured around the colored neighborhoods," he said, "because I did not wish to take a chance on having Burke injured by the crowds that I could see in Hastings Street."

Instead, the two men drove down Woodward Street, feeling that they would be reasonably safe, sticking close to a police squad car that was going in their direction.

JUL 3 1943

"We had gone about a block and a half," Hubbard said, "when the scout car turned off into a little side street.

"Immediately a crowd of about 500 whites spotted our car and started yelling 'There's one, let's get him.' We couldn't speed up and get away because we were blocked by a line of cars that were waiting for a light.

Brick Crashes Window

"The crowd began converging about the car and someone threw a brick through the back window.

"The light had changed then and another squad car came along. It seemed as if it was going to keep going, but Burke drove in front of it and blocked it."

Hubbard then told how six policemen, armed with riot guns and rifles, had alighted from the squad car, forced the crowd back and cleared a path for his car.

Police Storm YW Building

It was afterward reported that a few minutes after the meeting at the YWCA had adjourned, several score of armed policemen had come into the building.

Declaring that they had heard that a "subversive meeting" was being held, they searched the building, leaving only after they had been told that the mayor and police officials had attended the meeting.

JUL 3 1943

Asked whether there had been any indications that might have led to expectations of the riot, Hubbard said that there had been numerous clashes between colored and white groups and that it was no secret that a race riot was imminent.

Not Enough Policemen

"But despite all this," he concluded, "when the thing broke, there just were not enough policemen to handle the situation. No adequate patrols could be set up because there were too many clashes in too many widely separated places.

"What police there were were organized into flying squads, but these squads would disperse one mob and get a call to go to another spot.

"The mob that they had just dispersed would go around the corner and reform nad take up where they had left off."

Although this was called to the attention of Mayor Jeffries at noon Monday, Hubbard said, it was not until after the mayor had made a tour of the city Monday night that he was convinced that the situation had gone beyond the stage where police could control it.

JUL 3 1943

While there was no official confirmation forthcoming, it was reliably reported Tuesday that the following persons have been asked to serve on the new committee:

John Brophy, Boris Shiskin and Milton Webster, all of the old FEPC; P. B. Young, Sr., Norfolk, Va., editor; Miss Sarah Southall, white, and Z. Maury, white, head of the Fruit Growers' Association of New Orleans.

Report on Detroit Riot Presented Governor Kelly

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

DETROIT, Mich.—Information and recommendations growing out of the NAACP's investigation of the June 21-23 riots were presented to Governor Kelly this week when Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special council, completed his report here on July 7.

The investigation which concluded with the beginning of the arrest of some of the white rioters who had been identified by newspaper pictures began on June 24, the Thursday following the outbreak.

Lawyers for the NAACP opened an emergency office in the YMCA, two private investigators from New York firms were brought to Detroit by the Association. They spent ten days running down leads and investigating all complaints. One of the detectives was white and the other, A. B. Owens, is a Negro. Every story, letter, and telephone call has been checked. Many of the leads, the NAACP said, have turned out to be rumors. Several Negroes were afraid to give statements and for that reason many of the stories have not been included in the report. Only statements supported by affidavits are being used, Marshall said.

JUL 17 1943

The report to Governor Kelly will include a background picture of the riot and recommendations which have been prepared by Walter White, NAACP executive secretary. White reiterated the thirteen recommendations that he recently made to President Roosevelt.

Governor Kelly appointed Hon. Charles Mahoney of Detroit who is a member of the Michigan Labor Commission to receive all the complaints of Negroes concerning the riot.

Thurgood Marshall has worked closely with Mahoney and all complaints coming in have been investigated and the material turned over to Mahoney to be referred to the Governor.

JUL 17 1943

Detroit Riot Report Destroys Confidence in Law' Says NAACP

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

This was the comment of Walter White, NAACP secretary, upon reading the full text as published in Detroit dailies August 11.

Two members of the governor's Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling of Wayne County, (which includes Detroit) who made a statement several weeks ago blaming the NAACP by name for the riot, commission "solves nothing, further embitters Negroes, and defeats the ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies."

The report blamed the riot and praised the governor's handling of the riot.

NEW YORK—The report on the Detroit riot by Governor Harry F. Kelly's fact finding destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement and judicial agencies, said Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, today.

and Detroit Police Commissioner John E. Witherspoon, whose police force killed 17 of the 25 dead Negroes, while permitting white mobs to roam at will and beat up Negroes, even those under the "protection" of the police.

The NAACP said Witherspoon's presence on the committee "is undoubtedly responsible for this whitewashing of the police force."

"Negroes," said the NAACP, "have asked nothing but simple justice and the report to the governor calls them agitators."

"The text of the report by the Fact Finding Committee is not really a finding of fact, but an attempt by law enforcement officials of Detroit and Wayne County to cover the defection and derelictions of the Detroit police by blaming Negroes for the riot.

"The accusations are directed against all types of Negroes, from teen-aged ruffians to Negro editors, civic leaders, and heads of local and national organizations.

"Fully one-third of the digested text as reported in the Detroit dailies, August 11, concerns itself with minutely detailed descriptions of what the report describes as 'disconnected incidents provoked by a group of Negroes.'

"Violence of whites against Negroes is dismissed summarily in a short paragraph, despite the fact it is asserted this violence extended over a period of twenty hours, from 4:00 a.m., June 21, until 11:00 p.m. that same day. During this period more than 1,500 persons were arrested of whom 85 per cent were Negroes. Seventeen of the 25 slain Negroes were killed by police.

"This committee had before it abundant evidence, including a report from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of wholly unjustifiable killing and other violence by police. To ignore all of this and to conclude that 'the ordinary law enforcement agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators' is conclusive evidence of the bias which characterizes the report.

"This report solves nothing, further embitters Negroes and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities."

Detroit daily papers, as might be expected, gave much space to the report. The Hearst-owned *Times*, as usual, gave the Negroes the worst possible "slant" in handling the text. The report was in three parts, but the *Times* printed only Part I which dealt in greatest detail with fights between Negroes and whites at Belle Isle park.

Part III, printed in part by the *News*, blames the Negro press, Negro leaders, and Negro organizations for "inspiring" the riot.

It quotes the complete text of the infamous article of Warren Brown in the January *Readers Digest*, 'A Warning to the Negro Press," and charges the Michigan *Chronicle*, Detroit *Tribune*, and Pittsburgh *Courier*, with being true counterparts of the newspapers (sensational, hate-inspiring-Ed.) described by Dr. Brown."

Part III denounces the "victory at home and abroad" idea among Negroes. It names the NAACP and the March on Washington Movement, cites their aims and objectives and certain resolutions adopted at the war conference of the NAACP in Detroit, June 5. It refers to the protests against the Red Cross jim crow blood banks as a probable incitement to riot.

Places Blame In Race Riot

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

DETROIT, Sept. 23—(ANP) — Fifth column activities with the patronage of Henry Ford in Detroit were behind the June race riots, the hate strikes in many war plants and other subversive movements that obstruct the country's war effort, declared Albert E. Kahn, secretary of the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, before a gathering of more than 400 delegates representing labor, civic and social organizations at the Civil Rights Federation conference. Kahn urged the group to get a federal grand jury investigation of riots as soon as possible.

Kahn, one of the authors of the book, "Sabotage," said: "I believe that one of the reasons there has been less action against fifth columnists in Detroit is because most of them work for Ford.

Investigation of Detroit Police Demanded; NAACP Defending Jailed Negroes

Washington Tribune Washington, D. C.

JUL 3 1943

DETROIT, Mich.—A state or a joint Federal and state investigation of the Detroit Police Department and of the administration of Mayor Edward J. Jeffries was asked of Governor Harry S. Kelly by a representative group of Detroit citizens this week at a conference arranged by the NAACP.

"There is overwhelming evidence that the riot could have been stopped at its inception Sunday night had the police wanted to stop it," the delegation declared. "So inefficient is the police force and so many of its members are from the South with all the anti-Negro prejudices of the Ku Klux Klan that the trouble may break out all over again as soon as the troops leave," was the blunt appraisal given the governor.

Police Scored

Among the other immediate and long range issues discussed with the governror were the wanton shooting by State Policeman Ted Anders of Julian Witherspoon, 26-year-old medical student in the St. Antoine Y.M.C.A. June 22, the alleged looting of homes and apartments of Negroes by state policemen, the critical food situation in the Negro areas on the east and north side, the wholly disproportionate arrests and convictions of alleged Negro rioters in contrast with white rioters, and the failure to use Negro soldiers, state troopers and city police. Specific methods of attack on each of these problems were worked out by the conferees.

Confer Wih Leaders

Judge Ira W. Jayne, presiding justice of the Wayne County Circuit Court and N.A.A.C.P. vice-president, had arranged a previous conference for himself and Walter White, NAACP executive secretary. with the governor.

At their suggestion, a representative group of Detroit Negroes were invited to the conference held June 23. They were: Dr. James J. McClendon and Gloster Current, president and secretary respectively of the Detroit branch of the NAACP; Rev. Charles Hill, chairman of the Citizens Committee; Mrs. Beulah Whitby of the Detroit O.C.D. and national president of the AKA; Charles Mahoney, member of the State Labor Commission; Senator Charles Diggs, Louis E. Martin of the Michigan *Chronicle*; Mrs. J. E. McCall of the Detroit *Tribune*; and John R. Williams of the Pittsburgh *Courier*.

Mayor Does Nothing

Investigation by the Federal misfeasance and mal-feasance" of the Detroit police and Mayor Jeffries was asked by the NAACP. "The riot could have been stopped Sunday night with the firm use of force including a few fire hoses had the police of Detroit wanted it stopped," the Association declared. "Instead there is photographic and other evidence which is irrefutable that the police not only did nothing to prevent white rioters running wild but actually held Negro victims while white hoodlums beat them. Mayor Jeffries has been implored by white and Negro groups for more than a year to do his duty and check the vicious forces which infest Detroit but he has done nothing. The fifth column in Detroit has its headquarters in City Hall and Police Headquarters because it is weakness and prejudice there which has cost thirty-one lives, the destruction of property, tragic stoppage of the production of war supplies our fighting men overseas desperately need," the NAACP shrarged.

White and Marshal lon the Scene

Walter White arrived here by plane during the height of the rioting June 21, when asked by the Detroit branch, to assist in meeting the grave situation. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, reached here June 23 from Washington where he conferred Wednesday with Attorney-General Francis Biddle and other government officials regarding the riots in Detroit and other cities. Attorney General Biddle assured Marshall that he was "seriously concerned" about the Detroit riots and was "carefully watching the situation." He also assured Marshall that any evidence of the commission of federal crimes would be promptly investigated as soon as referred to him. Mr. Marshall will assist in gathering evidence, providing counsel and taking such other steps as are deemed necessary to prevent injustice and victimization of the sorely tried Negroes of Detroit.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FEARS RIOT SPREAD

JUL 1943

Pittsburgh Courier

WASHINGTON, July 8—The Easten Conference of Federal District Attorneys, held in Philadelphia last Thursday, was enlightened by Attorney General Francis Biddle's remarks concerning the Detroit race riot. The meeting was a closed one, and no newspaper releases were given out, but The Am that similar race riots could Pittsburgh Courier has been reli- occur in places like San Francisco ably informed that Attorney Gen- and Philadelphia. He expressed eral Biddle said in referring to the opinion that colored people are the Detroit riot that he had a beginning to believe that nobody had a feeling of futility in eliminating this end. That Americans cruel race prejudice. are doing a magnificent job abroad He cited his experience as a but that the war grieved at the labor board arbiter as a possible many slothful and narrow minded people on the home front who may, in measure, defeat some of the lofty purposes which our soldiers are fighting and dying.

He said the authorities of Detroit saw the riots coming and nothing was done to prevent it

IMPRISONED FOR PART IN RIOTS

TWO NEGROES

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 23 (AP).—Leo Tipton and Charles Lyons, Negroes, convicted a week ago on charges of rioting in racial disorders here last June, were sentenced in Recorder's court today to serve from four to five years in prison.

Thirty-four persons were killed and nearly 700 injured in the riot-trial growing out of the and her baby had been thrown from a bridge leading to Belle Isle, a recreation park in the

SCORES DETROIT OFFICIALS

JUL 10 1943

No official action was taken or reports that a Negro woman and

Detroit river.

Tribu

charged Lyons carried

report to Tipton in an

The state

The

speakers made any reference to the false

Leaders Urge Roosevelt: Destroy Axis Plot in Detroit

Punish the guilty patriots Americans demanded yesterday as they called upon President Roosevelt to act in the Detroit race riots.

Leading Negro and white national organizations pointed out that the outbreaks were disrupting home front unity and paralyzing war production. Fifth column agents in the United States are behind the fascist attacks and must be punished immediately, they informed the President.

Mob violence and murder directed against the Negro people in Detroit is "is the work of the Axis," stated George Marshall, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, in a telegram to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Marshall urged the President to take "strong action" to save "our nation and the war effort, by immediately taking steps to uncover and break up this conspiracy."

The Federal Government must investigate the Ku Klux Klan, Gerald L. K. Smith, his organization and his publication, "The Cross and the Flag," in order to get to the root of the trouble, Mr. Marshall suggested.

Detroit labor, church, political and civic leaders joined in a statement urging Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Governor Harry F. Kelly and the Federal government to restore order and punish the guilty by:

"Clearly and publicly placing the blame where it belongs—on the Axis-aiding Ku Klux Klan and other fifth column elements in Detroit who have created this situation.

"Immediate round-up and arrest of all known Klan and other fifth column leaders and followers in the Detroit area.

"Adequate protection for ALL citizens, and immediate removal of any police and other officers who are guilty of collusion with those responsible for the attacks upon the Negro people."

The statement was endorsed by R. J. Thomas, president of the Auto Workers Union; the Rev. B. Rush, president, Detroit Council of Churches; the Rev. Charles Hill, chairman, Citizens Committee; State Senator Stanley Novak; Judge P. H. O'Brien; Donald Thurber, executive secretary, Metropolitan Detroit Youth Council; Jack Raskin, Civil Rights Federation; C. Patrick Quinn, president Wayne County CIO Council, and hundreds of others.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asked the President "to go on the radio at the earliest possible time to appeal to Americans to resist Axis and other propaganda" which is the cause of the recent outbreaks in Los Angeles, Beaumont, Philadelphia, Chester, Newark and other cities. Similar requests have been made by other leaders.

Unless the President acts, Mr. White pointed out in a wire to the White House, the outbreaks will not subside.

The Detroit branch of the NAACP also wired the President to take immediate action.

"An aroused public opinion must back the Federal government and state authorities to stop these Axis and domestic fascists whose acts are obviously aimed at destroying our war production," declared the statement.

"The Department of Justice must apprehend these criminals," declared a wire from Joseph Stack, New York port agent of the National Maritime Union, and they must be tried as traitors. Stack said:

"All the government agencies must be placed on the alert for these agents. The people of our country must be awakened to this threat to our existence. Whatevar your steps, we, the CIO seamen, will do everything in our power to aid in whatever you deem necessary. We will not rest nor fail to unify our people for the greatest battle of Europe that lies ahead."

15,000 IN LOCAL 65

Fifteen thousand members of Local 65, Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union, declared that "the very imminence of our victorious offensive is cause for the fifth columnists to mobilize feverishly all their agents and to spread insidious propaganda which is designed to prevent loyal American citizens and provoke them into acts of violence against their own freedom."

The wire was signed by Arthur Osman, president.

Condemning the "acts of Lewis and instigators of race riots as treason to the nation," New York's culinary unions moved for vigorous action against the home-front wreckers.

LINK LEWIS TO DETROIT

The condemnation that linked Lewis and the Detroit riot promoters was expressed in a wire to President Roosevelt by Hotel Club Employes, Local 6, AFL. The union assured the President full backing of its 16,000 members, many of them Negroes, in his victory policy.

A second wire sent by the local went to Attorney General Francis Biddle, calling upon him to "prosecute vigorously" known perpetrators of the Detroit events.

In the meantime, the Joint Board of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, acting for 50,000 members in New York, sent Sam Kramberg, its general officer, to Washington to press for immediate prosecution of the criminals.

The American Civil Liberties Union urged Attorney General Francis Biddle to take action against the rioters based on violations of the federal civil rights statutes.

"Official silence can be kept no longer," said Dean Dixon, noted Negro conductor. "In the name of humanity we need right now a strong, powerful and mighty voice to be raised against the rising tide of race hatreds being stirred in America by the enemies within our midst."

Individuals here condemning the race riots as a boon to Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito were Assemblyman Isidore Dollinger of the 4th A. D. in the Bronx; the Rev. Mac Gowan, leading Negro minister; Mrs. Vivian Sampson, Negro leader of the Claremont House Community Center, and Dr. A. Grossman, one of the leaders of the Bronx American Jewish Congress.

NEW ROCHELLE CITIZENS

In New Rochelle, City Judge Sol Rubin said:

"There can be only one reaction on the part of decent Aemricans to the news from Detroit. It is a regrettable incident in American community life, coming as it does now in the nation's greatest war manufacturing center on the eve of the nation's military effort."

Other prominent New Rochelle residents who protested were Dr. Uriel Gunphorte, president of the Colored People's Democratic Club, and Dr. Edward Beff, Negro doctor.

The **People's Voice**, progressive Negro weekly, has announced that it is publishing a special July Fourth issue on war unity and appealed to all labor unions to join with it in this endeavor, according to letters sent to AFL and CIO unions.

Detroiters Ask 'Riot' Grand Jury

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, July 18.—Despite the efforts made by Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., to absolve the city of any responsibility for the anti-Negro riots and to clear the fifth column and other subversive elements of all guilt, the Inter-Racial Advisory Committee appointed by him voted unanimously for a grand jury investigation.

This committee is composed of 12 community leaders, six white and six Negro. Louis C. Martin, editor of the Michigan Chronicle, leading Negro paper in the state and member of the committee stated that "I feel sure that a grand jury investigation is the only way to really clear this thing up, including the unsolved murders." He has presented additional evidence which convinced the entire committee to demand a thorough investigation.

The decision of the Committee follows on the steps of a feeble attempt by John Bugas, chief of the FBI to place the responsibility for 36 deaths upon juvenile delinquents The Governor has also made it clear that he feels that no fifth column is involved and therefore opposes any calling of a grand jury. Progressive community leaders are much disturbed over the campaign to expose the Ku Klux Klan and other fifth-column elements which started the first day of riots before any investigation of the insurrection was even considered.

WHITEWASH POLICE

An investigation by Sheridan Bruseaux of Chicago, reported to be a head of a detective agency resulted in a report which is "in sharp variance in many particulars with those of others who have sought to analyze the riot causes" asserts the Michigan Chronicle. Mr. Bruseaux was hired by Reverend Horace White. It appears to be a rehash of some of the "white papers" issued and the suggestions advanced by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers, CIO, and has aroused a great deal of unfavorable comment.

In an effort to whitewash the police and exonerate it of some of the responsibility, one of the metropolitan dailies took sharp issue with the caption to a photograph showing a Negro held by police being beaten by white hoodlums. The caption read, "Rioter slaps a Negro who is being held by two policemen, while a large gang of white hoodlums surges in from behind. Throughout the riot the Detroit police were tougher on the Negroes than the whites.

The issue was revived when one of the hoodlums was recognized in the photograph and sentenced to 90 days. He has a police record. The paper then quoted the policemen as having said that they warded off the blows and were protecting the Negro.

Another metropolitan daily located the Negro, Sam Mitchell, a trusted caretaker for 18 years at the Bankers Trust Company and got the real story. Mitchell stated that he was being beaten and mauled by nine hoodlums while he was being held by the police, and that in desperation he wriggled out of their grasp of the police and ran the gauntlet pursued by the mob. He finally got to a squad car and was taken to a hospital

Detroit's Martial Law Relaxed, Do-Nothing Policy Continues

By Arnold Beichman
Staff Correspondent

DETROIT, June 25.—Although this arsenal of democracy is painfully returning to normal, its leaders still are floundering around on the question of how to prevent recurrence of the bloody race rioting which, at the latest count, has taken 31 lives.

A grand jury investigation is brewing, Gov. Harry F. Kelly has announced that Dr. C. F. Ramsey, a sociologist who heads the State's Bureau of Child Welfare, willada

However, community spokesmen interviewed today unanimously agreed that removal of these restrictions symbolizes a superficial return to normalcy.

Anti-Negro as well as anti-white passions are still feverish, and will continue to be so until some drastic program of re-education and persistent propagandizing of the populace is undertaken. That, plus more housing, more recreation facilities and a

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Supervisor
But nothing is being done to implement

even this program and to get it started. There is a tragic disunity among the intelligent elements of Detroit. The only subject on which community leaders are voluable—but not for quotation—is that only one man can save the situation—President Roosevelt.

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Problem Too Big

His name came up again and again as the last hope, the refuge from their own bewilderment which afflicts the dozen or so community leaders who are still talking, still conferring and still wringing their hands after being confronted for almost a week by the horrors of native fascism.

Detroit's leadership, political as well as civic, is quite obviously unable to cope with the problem, because paradoxically enough it has gone beyond the elemental issues which characterize the South.

Negro workers here get equal pay for equal work. They have seniority. Colored workers in the city's war plants do skilled work. Jim Crow isn't practiced extensively. Some of the biggest hotels here permit Negroes to register. Negroes and whites live amicably side-by-side on many of the city's blocks. Movies, theaters, department stores —willingly or not—raise no bars against Negroes.

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New York City and Detroit to some extent are comparable so far as treatment of the Negro is concerned—excepting, of course, the Detroit police department, which is on the level of New York's police department in the days before the La Guardia administration.

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Economic Equality Issue

The issue of economic equality for Negroes with whites has been fought out and settled for some time to come as a result of the uncompromising policies of the UAW. It is to the everlasting credit of the country's biggest union that while the streets of Detroit were engulfed by rioters, not a single instance of disorder or trouble was reported in any of the war plants where workers of both races are employed.

But when you examine the Negro's position here, you realize how tenuous it really is. These economic victories haven't been paralleled by social controls, or mutual understanding between whites and Negroes. The war for economic equality may have been won temporarily, but there is no peace here or in other large cities.

Forget that the name is Detroit and imagine it all happened in New York City. What would be doing if we in New York had suffered race riots this week? What would the City's program be? How would we end the racial antagonism which could just as well drown New York in a blood bath as it did in Detroit?

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Detroit's civic leadership has been struck hard by a problem which it avoided for three years at least. And now that the tragedy has come, it weeps for the dead and forgets the living.

Where do all the other Detroits of the U. S. A. go from here?

Behind the Axis Conspiracy in Detroit

The Daily Work New York, N. Y

By Frank Ryhlick

(The Worker Midwest Bureau)

(First of a series of articles.)

DETROIT, Mich., June 24.—Tear gas guns are no longer popping in this city today, but beneath the surface quiet lurks a grave danger to the entire nation.

The danger is that the vast Fifth Column network in Detroit will be ignored in the search to find the real instigators of the anti-Negro riots that seriously curtailed production and disrupted morale.

State and city authorities, and even the FBI, have exhibited a tendency to attribute the outbreak simply to "Negro and white hoodlums." Said John S. Bugas Detroit FBI head:

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"Do you think that 200 kids, boys between 14 and 18, who stopped [illegible] and routed off Negroes and pummelled them, were acting on orders? I don't."

To dismiss the riots merely as the work of 14-18 year old boys who "pummelled" people is to do more than overlook 30 dead, mostly Negroes shot by police bullets, and over 700 injured. It is to absolve the powerful Fifth Column forces of Detroit which have long prepared the groundwork for the outbreak that began last Sunday evening. More historically accurate is the statement by C. M. Bolds, Regional representative of the War Production Board's labor production division:

"Long ago Hitler bragged that his agents would bring about a race situation such as the one which is now seriously hampering war production in the Detroit area."

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Of course many of the 14-18 year old boys swept in the maelstrom of the riot weren't taking "orders" in the narrow sense of the word, but the organized nature of the outbreaks was immediately demonstrated during the rioting, as noted by many newspapers. The Daily Worker and other papers quoted the Doctor who said, in describing a white mob: "Their leaders could be seen directing them, pulling Negroes from cars and beating them mercilessly."

Governor Harry F. Kelly has designated a committee to investigate the causes of the outbreaks. On the Committee is Commissioner of Police John E. Witherspoon and other local officials who have shown indications of neglecting to consider seriously the Fifth Column relation to the anti-Negro rioting. Further police and city administration seek to justify wholesale shooting of Negroes on the "hoodlum" theory.

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People of Detroit not only are demanding that local authorities bring the Fifth Column under the spotlight and that there be a broad inquiry with the support of the unions and the public generally, but they indicate a growing realization that the pro-Axis forces must be compelled to close their doors and suspend their publications pending completion of thorough inquiry.

Against this backdrop, the Daily Worker will present in this and subsequent issues a picture of the various Fifth Column movements in Detroit, disclosing as much as possible of their present and past records as a basis for appraising the anti-Negro riots and as the beginning of what must be a complete and smashing exposure of the Fascist organizations.

KLAN MEETING

Last Tuesday evening, a passerby saw a capacity meeting at the Forest Social Club, 89 Forest Avenue W. This club for years has been the headquarters for Klan elements. An eyewitness, who passes the [illegible] regularly, said the Tuesday meeting was the biggest he had seen in months.

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The Daily Worker correspondent visited the building today. The veteran "caretaker," presumably the well-known J. L. (Uncle Charley) Charles, refused to discuss the meeting or reveal anything of its nature. Telephone calls to the Forest Club last night failed to get the slightest response from men who answered. Each professed not even to know whether the right number was being called.

Another call was made to the home of Charles Spare, former Michigan Grand Dragon of the KKK. A woman revealed Spare had left town for parts unknown and would be gone for several days.

Klan elements have been linked directly to previous anti-Negro outbreaks here, and obviously are worried about being questioned in regard to the latest outbreaks, which are among the most serious in the nation's history.

KKK LINK TO STRIKE

An investigator's conversation with a "Charles" at the Forest Social Club revealed the Klan connection with a wildcat strike at the Hudson Naval Arsenal on June 20, 1942. An affidavit on this conversation is in the hands of Naval Intelligence.

"We had to order the boys to go back to [illegible]," said the club spokesman. "There was nothing else we could do after Washington took the stand it did."

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A warning is furnished by the experience of the Packard strike early last month. Col. Drake, District Supervisor of Procurement for the Air Forces, at the outset dismissed charges of Klan activity as not warranting investigation.

UAW CHIEF GIVES PROOF

Subsequently, President R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers obtained positive proof that the strike was inspired by Klan elements. The proof was obtained by a union man who, with a newspaperman for a witness, talked with "Uncle Charley" at the Forest Club. "Uncle Charley," believing he was talking with a Klan member, named Charles Spare and Klansmen inside Packard as the forces behind the strike.

He referred to Negro workers as "Black alligator bait," and declare: "We're going to have a real showdown this time."

James A. Colescott, imperial wizard of the KKK, was so disturbed by this revelation that he revealed the Detroit chapter of the Klan had officially disbanded in August of 1942, and that Spare had taken most of the membership into a new organization, the United Sons of America.

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"It is true," added Colescott "that the Klan has been working within the UAW-CIO for some time to combat the Communist leadership in the union."

Colescott sought to give the impression that Charles Spare, better known around here as "Nightshirt Charlie" had disagreed with him over matters of policy and had wanted his own organization. The affidavit obtained by Tnomas, however, indicates that Klan elements are merely masquerading under a new cloak.

UNDER NEW NAMES

The United Sons of America, and the United Sons of Michigan of America, filed incorporation papers in Lansing, the State Capitol, listing their headquarters as 480 Vernor Highway West, Detroit. But the Forest Social Club is still in business.

Incorporation papers list E. E. Maxey, Howard Clark, David Cole, Ward B. Long, George Mathis and Davis [illegible], all of Detroit, as the various officers of the State and national organizations. Spare remains behind the scenes.

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Beginning in May 1941, all klansmen received official instructions to join and work within the UAW-CIO. Organizations were set up in each factory department. KKK activities became so flagrant that in April, 1942, the Packard Local placed Buehrle, Klan leader in the plant, on trial.

The trial, among other things, brought out how the systematically inflamed anti-Negro sentiment in order to disrupt production and to create disunity.

The history of collaboration between the Klan and the German-

JUN 25 1943

Racial Intolerance Seen as Undermining Unity.

By Bernice P. Rossman.

When the Black Legion was smashed in 1936, many of its members drifted back to the Klan.

Certainly the racial intolerance and kickbacks exhibited in Detroit riots and the bitter bickerings of political factions in Washington are not to be of the strongest arguments for

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Let us all work to keep this democracy intact by helping to with all duewin the war and not endanger its courageous fightunity by emoting racial intolerpeople, even finance.

—Jackson Heights, Queens.

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Let us all foes ofdemocracy. reminded of the that occurred and with all the Nazi Germany, and respect for the courage of the Russian people Soviet Russia. Let it be remembered when anyone strenuously the opposed too militarists in power here dead with a knife in his back.

Although we are in war, our democracy will

In the light of these facts, it is well known that in the pre- Thomas said during the Packard strike: "I am convinced that enemy agents are using this nightshirt axis American Bund is well known. Not easy to understand why J. Bund period the Klan actually captured control of Detroit city machinery. In 1939, the Klan-backed candidate for Mayor was elected During the period of Klan supremacy, many of its elements found jobs in city departments, including the police force.

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Michigan

used

Before Troops Ended Rioting

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.



WOMAN FLEES FROM DETROIT MOB—A woman passenger climbs out of the rear window of a streetcar in Detroit Monday to escape a mob which halted the car in an effort to take colored passengers off the conveyances during the rioting which was brought to a halt by United States troops

Associated Press WIREPHOTO

JUN 22 1943

Detroit Quiet As U. S. Troops Patrol Streets

JUN 23 1943

By the Associated Press

Detroit, June 22.—Under orders to "load your guns and don't take anything from anybody," Army troops patrolled Detroit streets today, restoring calm to this great armament producing center after 28 hours of racial conffict that brought death to 24 persons and injuries of varying degree to at least 700 others.

All but three of the dead were Negroes. Of the injured, 74 remained in hospitals today, 6 of them policemen.

Monday night

An estimated 1300 persons were under arrest. Police officials said that about 85 per cent of them were Negroes averaging in age around 21. Most of them were held in specially established prisons guarded by Michigan State troops.

With the arrival of the troops, the violence and looting that flared up in different sections of the city from early Monday morning until last midnight subsided. Today there had been no reports of further conflict, but saloons remained closed and public assemblags still were banned.

JUN 23 1943

Thousands Stay Away From Jobs

Thousands of Negro factory workers, said to be fearful of renewed outbreaks, stayed away from work, an Officer of War Information survey indicated. Negro factory absenteeism today ranged from 50 to 90 per cent. The effect upon war goods production, plant spokesmen said, probably would not be apparent until tomorrow.

Canceled were today's Cleveland-Detroit baseball game and the day's horse racing program at the Michigan State Fair Grounds. Theaters were permitted to remain open only until 9:15 p. m. (Eastern War Time) and a curfew ordering all persons off the streets from 10 p. m. until 6 a. m. also continued in effect.

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Gov. Harry F. Kelly, who invoked these restrictions, announced after a conference with Army officers that the troops would stay in the Detroit area indefinitely.

In Recorder's Court today 31 men and three women, all Negroes convicted of disturbing the peace in yesterday's rioting, were sentenced to 90-day terms in the Detroit House of Correction.

Main Thoroughfares Patroled

Sent into the area under a proclamation of President Roosevelt that took note of "unlawful and insurrectnoiary proceedings," the troops in trucks and jeeps from which protruded muzzles of rifles and machine guns, patroled the main streets and yesterday's battle sectors.

Yesterday those streets and the outlying sectors were the scenes of savage hand-to-hand conflict between whites and Negroes.

The troops were enforcing a limited form of military control. There were more than 1000 of them on duty, with as many more held in reserve in nearby Army posts.

Governor Kelly's state-of-emergency order covered Wayne County (Detroit) and adjoining Oakland and Macomb Counties, where many of the larger armament factories are located.

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The Army forces were under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner of the Sixth Service Command. He explained that martial law had not been proclaimed. The President's proclamation, he said, "gave Federal assistance to the state of emergency." This form leaves the military subordinate to the civil authority.

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Most of Debris Cleared Away

Most of the debris of yesterday's rioting in the downtown area—overturned and burned automobiles, shattered glass from smashed store fronts—had been cleared away today.

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Police Lieut. Albert Hartsig, who toured the upper East Side Negro area, told of signs on some houses reading: "This is a colored home; do not break in." These homes, Hartsig said, were untouched, while others which bore no placards were wrecked and plundered.

At another point in the Negro section, police halted a Negro driving an automobile from the radiator of which flew a white flag. "That flag means I'm neutral," the driver explained.

The officers said they found a revolver inside his shirt and booked him on a concealed weapons charge.

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What led up to yesterday's clash still was debated today. A group of prominent Negro citizens, in a statement urging Negroes to refrain from spreading inflammatory rumors and to pursue normal activities, charged it was fifth-column inspired.

Axis Link Held Unlikely

John S. Bugas, head of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said he had no evidence that the riot was in any way planned or organized and that he did not believe any foreign power or Axis propaganda had any connection with it.

"Do you think," Bugas said, "that the 200 kids—boys between the ages of 14 and 18, who stopped a streetcar, pulled off Negroes and pummelled them, were acting on orders. I don't."

C. M. Bolds, regional labor representative of the War Production Board's labor production division, issued an appeal to all orkers, Negro and white, to forget their differences.

"Long ago," he said, Hitler bragged that his agents would bring about a race situation such as the one which is now seriously hampering war production."

That part of the East Side Negro section in a four-block strip east of Brush Street and extending 2½ miles north ofGratiot Avenue presented the appearance today of a war-ravaged village.

Gratiot Avenue presented the appearance today of a war-ravaged village.

Store fronts had been smashed in, discarded food, torn clothing, shoe boxes and store fixtures littered the pavements.

Stores with their display windows and doors smashed were wide open but deserted—stripped of everything of value.

Through these littered sidewalks helmeted soldiers, with bayonets fixed, moved afoot, breaking up occasional small gatherings.

JUN 23 1943

Pittsburgh CIO Acts on Riots

(Special to the Daily Worker)

PITTSBURGH, July 18.—With the understanding that the riots in Detroit were not unplanned or sporadic, a series of moves were begun during the past fortnight against any similar expressions of fascism in Pittsburgh. Endorsement by the Steel City Industrial Union Council of a resolution, originally adopted by Negro and white citizens, dealing with the Pittsburgh Courier, Communist Party, and several Negro trade unions. The conference was well represented in Labor leaders, Director of Public Safety, President of the Chamber of Commerce and the Race Relations concerned with Pitts- the Negro press.

JUL 19 1943

Held simultaneously with this meeting was the Conference concerning Coordinating Committees, called by the Citizens' Com- Speaking at the conference, John

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McDOWELL SPEAKS

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McDowell, Director of the Soho Community House said we are a nation of minorities, religious, racial and color and the purpose of the conference is to enable us to think and work together on a problem of interest to all of us. The answer to the problems he said is to incorporate all minority groups into full citizenship regardless of race, color or creed. The specific task, he pointed out is the education of all majority groups to the acceptance of minorities, preparing all groups for complete citizenship, removing at once the worst injustices, that there are classes, racial or religious and finally preventing any outbreak by industry or groups against some which will retard full citizenship to the rest.

Colonel Fairly, Director of Public Safety, citing several examples, cautioned against believing rumor mongers, often the cause of riots. In answer to charges from the floor that the police in the past had shown favoritism to white mobsters, he said that the police are 100 per cent prepared for riots but that there would be no favoritism shown, promising there would not be exclusive beating of Negroes but equal beating of whites and blacks in event of outbreak.

Welcoming Director Fairly's promise of no favoritism, but convinced that all activity at this time should be directed toward prevention of violence, Bill Chambers of the UER&MWA, District 6 stated that the trouble makers in the form of the KKK and Gerald L. K. Smith, now organizing a political party on the Northside of Pittsburgh should be "exposed, isolated and eradicated."

URGE ACTION

Calling for more positive action, Mr. Chambers advanced the program that all churches in white communities set aside one Sunday for this subject of race relations, that the locals of the UE contribute toward full page ads clarifying this issue, the Rumor Clinic of the Post Gazette at the same time devoting space. Mr. Nunn of the Pittsburgh Courier also underlining the need for positive action, asked for publicity in the daily press about Negros in the war effort and on the battle fronts, a series of public radio discussions on racial problems, good will advertising from industry "who have nothing to sell now anyhow" and finally declaration from city and government officials concerning their stand on racial problems. "We are fighting for first class citizenship," Mr. Nunn concluded.

Highlight of the meeting was the calling for a People's Peace Conference by the Mayor to include Business, Industry, Labor, Police, Schools, Clergy, civic groups and Government. This was put into a motion with full responsibility by the Urban League and Chamber of Commerce in carrying it through.

Though Dr. Green, President of the Chamber of Commerce, speaking last warned against the idea that we are sitting on top of a volcano, saying it is the lunatic fringe who creates these riots and there is nothing they love more than to be able to step into the limelight, he agreed to carry the motion to the Mayor, the first step in a People's Peace Conference.

DETROIT STARTS RIOT INQUIRY

Committee Will Seek To Determine Authorship Of Racial Outburst

By United Press.

DETROIT, June 24.—A four-man fact-finding committee began investigating today the causes of Detroit's race riots which brought death to 31 persons and injury to more than 700 others.

The committee, appointed by Gov Harry F. Kelly, sought to determine whether there was sufficient evidence for calling a special grand jury for a thorough inquiry of the rioting.

In appointing the committee, Kelly announced that if a grand jury is needed "to determine that this was a planned riot—we'll have it." His statement followed charges by various groups throughout the country that subversive elements were responsible.

Death Toll Now 31

The death toll rose to 31 last night when two white men died of injuries. They were James Kenny, 40, who was beaten while delivering milk Monday, and Frank Frostman, 68, who suffered a fractured skull when hit with a brick.

Meantime, Wayne (Detroit) County Prosecutor William E. Dowling, with the aid of the legal facilities of the state attorney's office, was attempting to dispose of court cases involving more than 1800 persons arrested.

69 Sentenced To Jail

Jail sentences of 90 days were given to 69 defendants, including nine white persons, yesterday, and Kelly said Dowling had recommended 120 felony warrants for 167 persons.

Conditions generally were quiet although Federal troops still patrol the streets. Baseball and horse racing were resumed yesterday but Kelly said the 10 p. m. curfew would continue at least for another day.

Detroit Quiet, 1,300 Under Arrest; Troops to Remain Indefinitely

Deaths Total 28; Riot Cause Unfix

Pictures on Picture Page.

Detroit, June 22 (AP)—Under orders to "load your guns and don't take anything from anybody," United States Army troops with fixed bayonets occupied Detroit streets today to restore calm after twenty-four hours of racial conflict that brought death to twenty-eight persons and injuries to at least 700 others.

All but three of the dead were Negroes; of the injured, seventy-four remained in hospitals today, six of them policemen.

An estimated 1,300 persons were under arrest. Police officials said about 85 per cent of them were Negroes, averaging in age about 21. Most of them were held in specially established prisons guarded by Michigan state troops.

With the arrival of the Army troops, the violence and looting that flared up in different sections of the city from early yesterday morning until last midnight subsided. Today there were no reports of further conflict, but saloons remained closed and public assemblages still were banned.

Negroes Absent At Plants.

Thousands of Negro factory workers, fearful of renewed outbreaks, stayed away from work. An Office of War Information survey indicated Negro factory absenteeism today ranged from 50 to 90 per cent. The effect upon war goods production, plant spokesmen said, probably would not be apparent until tomorrow.

Canceled were today's Cleveland-Detroit baseball game and the day's horse racing program at the Michigan State Fair Grounds. Theaters were permitted to remain open only until 9:15 p.m. and a curfew ordering all citizens off the streets from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. continued.

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In Recorder's Court today thirty-one men and three women, all convicted of disturbing the peace in yesterday's rioting, were sentenced to niney-day terms in the House of Correction.

More Than 1,000 On Duty.

Sent into the area under a proclamation of President Roosevelt that took note of "unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings," the troops, including cavalry and jeeps patroled the main streets and yesterday's battle sectors.

The troops were enforcing a limited form of military control. There were more than 1,000 of them on duty. Their equipment included armored cars and a Red Cross unit.

The Army forces were under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner of the Sixth Service Command. He explained that martial law had not been proclaimed. The President's proclamation, he said, "gave Federal assistance to the state of emergency." This form leaves the military subordinate to the civil authority.

Most of the debris of yesterday's rioting in the downtown area — overturned and burned automobiles, shattered glass from smashed store fronts, the rocks and clubs used by warring men and women not otherwise armed—was cleared away today.

"Neutral" Driver Has Pistol.

At one point in a Negro section police halted a Negro driving an automobile from the radiator of which flew a white flag. "That flag means I'm neutral," the driver explained: "I'm not taking any chances." The officers said they found a revolver beside his shirt, and booked him on a concealed weapons charge.

What led to yesterday's clash still was debated today. A group of prominent Negro citizens, in a statement urging Negroes to refrain from spreading inflammatory rumors and to pursue normal activities, charged it was Fifth Column-inspired.

John S. Bugas, head of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said he had no evidence that the riot was in any way planned or organized. He did not believe any foreign power or Axis propaganda had any connection with it.

"Do you think," Bugas said, "that the 200 kids—boys between the ages of 14 and 18, who stopped a streetcar, pulled off Negroes and pummeled them, were acting on orders? I don't."

Race Smear Leaflets Flood Detroit Area

DETROIT, June 24 (ANP)—Detroit's race riots, which have been greatly agitated last week at the sudden flood of sinister anti-Negro and anti-Jewish literature mysteriously appearing in various sections of the city, and expressed fears that if city authorities do not suppress this literature at its source a recurrence of the sanguinary race riots of July 21 will again grip the community.

The literature, in the form of leaflets, reprint assertions of the rabid race baiter John L. (Rancid) Rankin, Democratic representative from Mississippi, made in the house. One of the paragraphs typical of the particular brand of venom of the rabble-rouser declares:

INCREASE ILL WILL

"When those communistic Jews —of whom the decent Jews are ashamed—go around here and hug and kiss these Negroes, dance with them, intermarry with them, and try to force their way into white restaurants, white hotels, and white picture shows, they are not deceiving any red blooded American. The committee's statement came on the eve of a new investigation announced in Martin Dies' smear the Negro popula- Detroit as responsible for riots there, alleging that is uncompromisingly opposed to fifth column activities.

"If any organization or individual Japanese-American prob- is a menace, regardless of citizen- the committee, "is being ship, avowed purpose, race or social these disruptive forces as position the danger must be imme- lever to create confusion diately investigated and removed," fection with the way our it declared. nt is handling the job of the country for winning

New Slander Attack Dies

The Japanese-American Committee for Democracy declared that it is uncompromisingly opposed to fifth column activities.

"If any organization or individual with Japanese agents. Japanese-American prob- is a menace, regardless of citizen- the committee, "is being ship, avowed purpose, race or social these disruptive forces as position the danger must be imme- lever to create confusion diately investigated and removed," fection with the way our it declared. nt is handling the job of the country for winning

The committee yesterday for has recently refused to allow the Japanese-American evacuees to be considered prisoners of war, or to be handled as an un-assimilable racial minority, said the committee's statement.

For this reason the Relocation authority's "extremely difficult responsibility" has been bitterly attacked by Martin Dies, reactionaries in Congress, and certain state legislatures.

The committee's statement came American committee yesterday its campaign of slander against the government's War Relocation Authority, under whose auspices more than 100,000 Americans of Japanese are being resettled in a far-western states.

Observers here were amazed which Martin Dies, literature was allowed to be disseminated so recently after the debacle here when the recent riots is still high and animosity strife. These statements placed elements the Detroit rease ill will working with the Axis of this race trouble."

Pittsburgh, Pa.
Courier
JUN 26 1943
JUN 28 1943
JUN 23 1943
JUN 24 1943
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61-1943 Michigan

Six Youth Accused of Murder in Detroit Riot

PM
New York, N. Y.

DETROIT, Aug. 4.—Six white youths were under murder charges today in connection with the race riots here on June 21 in which 35 persons lost their lives.

Aldo Trani, 16, Anthony Saraceno, 16, Pvt. Armedo Mastanuono, 20, and Robert Cattone, 17, were charged with fatally shooting Moses Kiska, Negro, from an automobile. Trani is said to have admitted firing the shot.

Two other unidentified persons were included in the charge.

Good—But Not Good Enough

Amsterdam Star-News New York, N. Y.

George Miller, a Detroit shoemaker, was sentenced to jail for 90 days for striking a Negro man while he was in the custody of two policemen during the Detroit riot. Miller was identified by a newspaper photographer whose picture showing him socking a Negro man in the jaw, although the latter was walking between two policemen, was one of the best pictures taken of the riot.

What we would like to know, however, is this: why weren't the two policemen who were walking each side of the man when Miller struck him expelled from the Detroit Police Force? By their failure to protect the victim of Miller's racial wrath, the two cops clearly proved that they were either incapable of performing their duty as officers of the law or were in agreement with Miller's lawlessness, or both.

Of course, a mere 90 days for inciting riot and participating in one in which 34 persons were killed and more than 500 injured was a very light sentence. In fact, it will probably encourage others to riot rather than to deter them. However, the coddling of their cops by Detroit officials and the measly sentence meted out to Miller are in themselves proof of the real spirit of the Mayor and other officials of the city.

Meantime, the photographer who identified Miller should be complimented for his part in trying to see that justice was done. By the same token, Detroit's police officials must be blind as well as biased, because anyone who can see at all could identify dozens of rioters from their pictures carried in newspapers and magazines all over the country. Yes, including the Detroit papers.

Detroit Disorders Hailed By Nazi Radio; Japanese Get Busy, Too!

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

The Nazi-controlled Vichy radio asserted Wednesday that Detroit's race riots were symptomatic of the "internal disorganization of a country torn by social injustice, race hatreds, regional disputes, the violence of an irritated poletariat and gangsterism of a capitalistic police."

According to authentic information, the Japanese-controlled radio stations were so busy luridly describing the Detroit riots that the Office of War Information found its regular broadcasting schedule disrupted.

Innocent Detroiter Victim of Gestapo Police Tactics

Afro-American

DETROIT, Mich.—Evidence of slaying by the Gestapo methods of the Detroit police department during the recent riot was exhibted in the case of John L. Jones, 26, of 927 Mt. Vernon Street, as he walked towards his home a few minutes after quitting work.

A bus driver for the Detroit Street Railway System, Jones was rushing home, away from the moving mob that had passed him two blocks away, bent on destroying every business owned by white merchants in an all-colored neighborhood.

Ignores Police Summons

A group of police, summoned to the scene, called to him less than a hundred yards away from a store that had been stoned. Seeing the white men in the car and seeing the shelter of his home with curious relatives standing on the porch, Jones ignored the summons.

Baltimore, Md.

Apparently ignorant that the white men in the car were officers, Jones ignored a second order to raise his hands and stand still. Less than twenty-five yards from his front porch, he was shot down by three white policemen.

All of this occurred while his wife, Mrs. Hilda Jones, and daughter, Anna Maria, watched from their porch. Shot in the back several times, the man died in the Receiving Hospital less than twenty-four hours later.

Beaumont Placed Under Martial Law

Advertiser

Texas City Scene Of Race Disturbances

Montgomery, Ala.

BEAUMONT, TEX., June 16.—(AP)—Martial law was declared in Beaumont today in a sequel to violence between negroes and whites which caused one fatality, injured at least 11 persons, disrupted numerous businesses and virtually shut down a shipyard.

The riots were precipitated by an attack on a young white woman, the mother of three children. She told police a negro attacked her in her home yesterday while her husband was at work.

Texas Rangers, State Defense Guards and police patrolled the city. After 15 hours of sporadic outbreaks, the situation became less tense.

At Austin, acting Gov. A. M. Aiken said he had declared martial law at the request of civic leaders and public officials.

Gov. Coke Stevenson, en route to Washington, D. C., earlier had said at Palestine, Tex., where he stopped briefly, that he believed the situation would not require the use of martial law.

Sheriff W. W. Richardson dispersed a crowd of white men that formed at the Beaumont courthouse at noon. He accused them of impeding officers in their search for the negro suspect.

Prominent trade union, church and civic leaders—both Negro and white—joined in a common effort to repair the damage done by the 36 hours of bloody outbreaks, which subsided this morning after President Roosevelt had placed the city under military control.

[R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (CIO), which has a large Negro membership, urged appointment of a special grand jury "to investigate the causes of the riots and return justifiable indictments."

Statements condemning the Nazi-inspired murders in Detroit, sent to the President by leading Negro and white individuals and by organized labor, appear on page 3.

[He reported that a Negro prosecutor be named to work with the district attorney and the grand jury, according to United Press.]

CITIZENS GROUP ACTS

The Detroit Citizens Committee, which defeated Klan elements several months ago in the Sojourner Truth Housing case, met at noon today and planned a broad series of actions to expose the fifth column behind the riots, to bring Negro workers back to the plants under adequate protection and to care for the families of dead and injured Negroes and whites.

The casualties rose this afternoon to 28 dead and 600 injured. Twenty-five of the dead were Negroes—19 of whom were shot by the police force which played the shocking role of actually abetting the riots.

ANTI-SEMITIC PLOT

Additional evidence of the fascist instigation behind the riots was revealed this afternoon by disclosure that attempts were being made to turn racial feeling against the Jews as well as the Negroes.

A member of United Auto Workers Union in the Murray Body Plant reported that anti-Semitic leaflets were being circulated through the plant.

There is every indication that the rioting which broke out late Sunday evening was part of an organized conspiracy, aimed at disrupting the home front while military operations are forecasting a decisive second front in Europe.

Every street corner mob had key leaders who directed the fighting, bringing up supplies of stones and clubs.

War Production Hit: Death Toll Now 28

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Frank Ryhlick
(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT, June 22.—From the bloodstained litter and debris in the heart of this vital war city, where Axis-inspired anti-Negro riots flamed hysterically yesterday and throughout the night, arose today a growing movement to smash the fifth column, build Negro and white unity for victory

[While mobs disappeared from the streets, the riots nonetheless affected production in many of the city's war plants. Negro workers absent ran as high as 50 to 70 per cent in plants of the Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Corp. and General Motors Corp., and spokesmen said the situation was "bound to affect war output."—United Press reported.]

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

A physician in the Professional Building, who asked that his name be withheld, said there was every

PRO-FASCIST GROUP

Recent meetings of Gerald L. K.

Smith's America First fascist group Negro-baiting and anti-Semitism have been flagrant.

There is no doubt that these activities helped to create the necessary atmosphere for the rioting.

Smith's party embraces Bundists, Coughlinites and kindred groups.

During the rioting of the past 36 hours, they have relied heavily on hoodlum elements and on de-classed elements from the bawdy-house and flop-house neighborhoods, many of them newly come to the city from the South in search of jobs.

This was the group that became the spearhead of the rioting, sweeping along with it—on a mad wave of hysteria—many groups particularly teen-aged boys, who raced wild-eyed through the streets scarcely seeming to know what they were doing.

ROLE OF POLICE

The shameful role of the police and the city administration will never be forgotten by the people of Detroit. Whereas the police stormed ruthlessly through the Negro neighborhood, shooting almost on sight, they were extremely cautious and slow to act along Woodward Avenue, where huge white mobs gathered.

Of approximately 1,300 people arrested, at least 85 per cent are Negroes.

Detroit citizens feel that a determined show of force by the police would have dispersed the mobs, which began to drift away as soon as word spread that regular U. S. Army troops were entering town.

Helmeted soldiers with fixed bayonets and automatic rifles patrolled the streets in jeeps and on foot today. Their attitude was generally fair and impartial, and the way they were treated showed the instinctive respect of the people for the U. S. Army. Many Negroes expressed the wish, however, that Negro troops had been sent in with the white forces.

JUN 23 1943

POLICE RIOT SQUAD

In startling contrast was the attitude of the black-garbed police riot squads, which belligerently cruised the Negro quarters, ordering peaceful groups of Negroes to "break it up."

This correspondent saw this happen twice in one Negro neighborhood. A few moments later, the riot car moved on to a cheap hotel where it opened fire with tear gas guns in an effort to dislodge a panic-stricken Negro from a room on the top floor. Tear gas fumes drifted over the bystanders, searing and smarting their eyes.

Governor Harry F. Kelly last night made a radio statement urging Negro war workers not to return to their homes via the crosstown car lines, but to take the route past City Hall. This might have been sound advice if city and state police had been on hand to protect the Negroes around the City Hall area, but the Negroes who took the governor's advice met a howling mob from which indifferent police did little to protect them.

Thousands of Negro war workers as well as many white workers stayed away from their jobs today to protect their homes and families.

FORD LOCAL ACTS

The officers and executive board of Ford Local 600, United Auto Workers, called upon all union workers "to exercise the greatest restraint and contribute all they can as union men and women to restore peace in the troubled race situation in Detroit."

"We ask all of them, white and Negro, to resist any attempts by anybody to provoke further trouble and to remain at their jobs in the plants. The only victors in the conflict begun last night will be Hitler and his fascist allies and the enemies of democracy at home."

JUN 23 1943

A leaflet for mass distribution was prepared today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Congress, the Civil Rights Federation, the Urban League and the Citizens Committee.

The leaflet demanded an investigation of the forces and persons responsible for the riots, called for investigation and prosecution of police atrocities and asked the Negroes to return to their war jobs, assuring that the government would protect them.

Joining in the work of the Citizens Committee was the Detroit Council of Churches, the Michigan Council of Churches and the East Side Merchants Association.

CALLS FOR UNION ACTION

Christopher Alston, an officer of the Packard Local of UAW, called upon the UAW international union to use its full facilities to get people back to work.

[Ninety-day jail sentences were imposed on 32 Negroes, according to United Press.

[The Negroes were first of more than 600 persons arrested to be punished as a result of bloody attacks, which caused 26 deaths and injury to hundreds.]

The National Lawyers Guild and the Wolverine Bar Association, an organization of Negro lawyers, have formed a legal committee to aid innocent persons who have been arrested. Of the 32 sentences handed down, all involved Negroes.

The Michigan State Committee of the Communist Party said that "smashing the fifth-column conspiracy is not the job of the Negro people alone," said the Communist Party. "It is in the first place the primary responsibility of the white workers, their mighty unions and progressive organizations. Defense of the rights of the Negro people is the defense of America at war."

A serious food shortage threatens the Negro neighborhoods, where stores have been smashed—many by Negro as well as white hoodlum elements — and where warehouses are refusing to send new supplies. The Citizens Committee is calling upon the city administration, the Red Cross and Civilian Defense to help provide for the needy.

TRAGEDY IN DETROIT

Times New York, N. Y.

The race riots which broke out Sunday night in Detroit have been long predicted. Local conditions brought to the breaking point a tension which exists in many other communities. Detroit is desperately short of housing. Thousands of new residents, coming to the city to work in the war industries, have congested all the public facilities. Opportunities for wholesome recreation have been deficient, as they are likely to be in a community trying to cope with a large temporary population. Gangs of hoodlums, both white and colored, have grown up, as they always will under such circumstances. Sinister individuals and organizations, doing the work of the Axis, if not actually allied with it, have taken full advantage of the situation.

The first task quickly undertaken by Governor Kelly and Mayor Jeffries, is to restore order. The harder task remains. Detroit needs to listen to its enlightened citizens of both races, who have worked together and separately to educate their own people and to understand other people. Nor need we confine the issue to Detroit. New York has [illegible] to learn. So has Los Angeles, where many innocent Mexicans and some equally innocent Negroes suffered in the "zoot suit" riots. Keeping peace and goodwill among all sorts and conditions of people at home is an indispensable part of the war effort. Those who hamper this work, whatever their race or creed, are not good Americans.

JUN 7-9 1943

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Motor City Still Tense:

Four Detroit Rioters Who Shot Aged Man "For Fun" Arrested

DETROIT—While New York's Harlem was busy this week restoring the damage caused by vandals who looted the business district following the worst disturbance the uptown community has seen since 1935, the air was still tense here after the charge a few days ago by Wayne County Prosecutor William Dowling that the NAACP and Negro press had caused the riots.

Immediately following on the heels of the Dowling charge was the statement by Police Commissioner Witherspoon that 99 percent of all the trouble was caused by Negroes themselves.

Meanwhile four white youths who confessed shooting a 58-year-old Negro during the riots because they "wanted to have some fun" were taken into custody here last Friday, while Leo Tipton, a Negro, who was described as "one of the chief inciters of the race riots," was arrested for allegedly having sent 500 persons from a Negro social club to Belle Island to "start the rioting."

The white lads, three of whom were teen-age, shot down the elderly Negro as he was waiting for a street car on June 21, and according to arresting detectives showed no more disturbance or regret over the incident than "normal men would show at going out to shoot clay pigeons."

Dowling stated the Sojourner Truth housing riots were instigated by "thugs" sent by the NAACP who were later defended by the Association. He completely cleared the Ku Klux Klan of being instigator of the riots in spite of Federal indictment of three riot ring leaders close to the Klan and the infamous National Workers League which is still conducting an open anti-Negro campaign.

The only ray of hope in the picture was the decision of Mayor Edward Jeffries on Friday, July 30, to uphold a grand jury investigation of the riots. NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White went with a delegation to the city hall to present to Mayor Jeffries the Association's charges against De-

The NAACP challenged both Dowling and Witherspoon to prove their charges that the Association and the Negro press were responsible for the riots.

The press rallied to its own defense. Louis Martin, editor of the "Detroit Chronicle"; McCall of the "Detroit Tribune," and J. R. Williams of the Detroit edition of the "Pittsburgh Courier," in a joint statement, said that: "the Negro press does not seek to stir up racial prejudice as charged, but to expose intolerance and discrimination for the public good."

One of the main factors in the arrest of some of the mob ring leaders has been the persistence of the "Detroit Free Press" in reprinting via enlarged photos each day pictures of the men shown in news photos to be the aggressors. Most of them have been easily identified because of previous criminal records.

One of the chief mobsters was a white ex-narcotics peddler and white slave ring procurer by the name of Morgan who was identified on the basis of a 6-year criminal record. He disappeared from Detroit immediately following the riots.

One Negro was held incommunicado for five days at a police station after he had identified one of the rioters thru a news photo. Negro residents still feel most keenly about the wanton death of a young YMCA resident who was shot in the back by a police officer and then allowed to lie for five hours at the entrance to the "Y" where he had been shot.

Following the shooting police are alleged to have entered the "Y," lined up 150 of the residents and intimidated and bullied them.

Ironically enough, on Sunday at Jackson Park in Windsor, Canada,

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rted today. police reported t
sons were injured today.
At least 200 persons
in clashes that broke
roke out at Belle Isle Park about
midnight, and spread quickly to Negro
and Negro districts of the city's East Side, police said.
e, police said.
were shot at about 8:20 a. m. today when they attempt-
at Division and Hastings sts. in the heart of the
in race riots in which Negro district. They
Negro was killed broke out here late last night and were taken to Receiving Hospital.

2 POLICEMEN SHOT IN DETROIT RIOTING

By United Press.

DETROIT, June 21.—Two policemen were wounded and at least one Negro was killed in race riots in which Negro districts of the city's East Side, police said.

Two policemen were shot at about 8:20 a. m. today when they attempted to quell a riot at Belle Isle Park about midnight, and spread quickly to Negro districts of the city's East Side, police said.

At least 200 persons were injured today.

police reported today, but their condition was not known.

JUN 1943

61-1943

Michigan

Troops Move Into Detroit to Put Down Race Rioting; 15 Dead, 500 Injured, 600 Jailed, Damage in Thousands



Charles Balduck, injured in the Detroit race riots, is having slivers of glass removed from his arm (*See Page 13 for more riot pictures*).

Mobs Roam Negro Quarter Wrecking Shops; Emergency State Declared

PM
New York, N. Y.
JUN 22 1943

Special Correspondence

DETROIT, June 22.—Gov. Harry F. Kelly of Michigan moved late yesterday to end rioting between Negroes and whites by declaring a state of emergency after 15 persons had been killed and more than 500 injured.

The order came shortly before nightfall after 24 hours of continuous rioting in a section two miles square on the city's East Side.

JUN 22 1943

City policeman, six to a car and armed with riot guns and sawed-off shotguns, had been cruising the streets all day dispersing Negro and white crowds, frequently interrupting pitched battles.

Gov. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., joined in a radio appeal to "the decent citizens of Detroit," urging them to comply with the decrees and "thereby give authorities a chance to ferret out the hoodlums and fifth columnists responsible for starting these disturbances."

Meanwhile, about 1500 state guards and state police, who had been standing by, moved into the riot zone to join in the attempt to restore order.

Saloons Closed

Earlier in the day police closed all saloons to "prevent drunken persons of both races from adding to the confusion." More than 600 men, Negroes and white, were jailed with little apparent effect on the extent of the rioting.

Gov. Kelly, who flew from the Governors' conference at Columbus, O., to take personal charge, included all of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties in his decree, defining a curfew period from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. when only persons going to and from work will be permitted on the streets.

JUN 22 1943

From the best information available, it appeared that the rioting started late Sunday after a fight between a white man and a Negro on the bridge leading to Belle Isle, a city park in the Detroit River.

Rioting Spread

Rioting spread through the park, where large numbers of both races were spending the holiday, and soon extended into the Negro district flanking Woodward Ave., the city's main thoroughfare.

Mobs composed of both races ranged through this area, clashing frequently with knives, clubs, bricks and fists. Two patrolmen were shot and wounded seriously while attempting to quell the riot. Periods of relative calm were broken by bands of white men who hooted at Negroes, warning them "to stay on your own side of town."

JUN 22 1943

Two of the 15 dead were white men. One of them, Dr. Joseph Dehoratius, was killed when his car was overturned by a band of rioters who beat him with broken slabs of concrete.

Thirteen of the city's elementary schools were closed because parents feared to let their children on the streets. **And war plants were short-handed due to the absence of workers who "wanted to be with their families."**

In addition to the casualties, rioters caused thousands of dollars of property damage by overturning automobiles, smashing shop windows and breaking into stores.

Influx Of Workers To Detroit Held No Factor In Race Riots

JUN 25 1943

DETROIT —(AP)— A sociologist who directed an inquiry among race rioters reported Saturday night the large war-induced influx of workers from the South and other sections was "almost no factor" in last Monday's outbreak of fighting between Negroes and white persons.

Dr. C. F. Ramsay, director of the Michigan department of social welfare, said he and a staff of volunteer assistants had questioned nearly 500 persons arrested during the riots and that "a majority of those interviewed had lived in Detroit more than five years."

The midnight curfew lid remained tightly clamped on the city for the week-end, enforced by federal troops who have been on duty here since Monday night.

Dr. Ramsay and his staff conducted their sociological inquiry at the request of Gov. Harry F. Kelly of Michigan, seeking in mental, physical and emotional backgrounds the causes for such outbreaks of violence and a clue to solution or mitigation of such trouble in the future.

"We reached a preliminary conclusion," Dr. Ramsay said, "that transition of persons from other parts of the country to Detroit was almost no factor in the riot."

Two general conditions obtained in nearly all the cases investigated, he reported. These were: the rioters participants were employed in good jobs and anxious to return to them, and they reported "no racial discrimination in their school or employment experiences. "Most of those questioned were Negroes," he said.

JUN 25 1943

All's Quiet--We Hope! On Detroit Riot Front

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.
JUN 5 1943

DETROIT—The police blockade around Inkster, the Negro suburb, was reinforced Sunday with detachments from the Wayne County sheriff's office and military police from the Army Air Base at Romulus after fighting broke out between Negroes and whites.

Five taverns were padlocked as a result of the fighting in which several persons were injured, one so severely that he required hospital treatment. Police said they dispersed a street crowd of 200 or 300 soldiers and a hundred civilians.

The crowd was attracted after two Negroes in an automobile clashed with two white pedestrians at a street crossing. Sunday morning trouble had broken out between Negro and white children in Inkster Park and later several youths clashed near a theater and a white boy had to be sent to the hospital.

JUN 12 1943

No Probe in Detroit Riots

Detroit, June 25 (AP).—Gov. Harry F. Kelly said today no grand jury investigation was planned into the race rioting Monday that brought Federal troops to restore order on Detroit streets.

The Governor accepted a recommendation of his fact-finding committee of four law enforcement officials that such an inquiry was not needed.

"You cannot start a grand jury on hysteria," said one of the committeemen.

The first two jury trials resulting from riot cases ended today with convictions of a Negro and a white man on charges of disturbing the peace. Both juries were composed entirely of whites. The two men immediately were sentenced to 90 days in jail.

JUN 26 1943

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, commenting on plans of Representative Martin Dies (Democrat) of Texas, for his House Committee on un-American activities to make an inquiry here, said today that "the Dies Committee can offer us nothing but more confusion."

Jeffries said, "the FBI has been investigating, along with military and Naval intelligence, and city and State police. Another investigation by Dies would accomplish nothing at all."

Letters to The Times

Detroit Riots an Example

Times
JUN 26 1943

Powerful Argument for Organized World Seen in Disturbances

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

The Detroit riots are a grim and powerful argument for an organized world. Here, in a modern city of a highly civilized State, law is flouted by a mob—an aggressor nation—and the state and city, under the Governor and

Germany drives across the Polish border. The principle involved is the same in every case—the sheer necessity of organized force to overcome the mob; that is a matter of course.

And yet that same country—and others also—will split hairs and find reasons for delay, when Japan takes these, or Manchuria, Italy attacks Ethiopia, or Nations'

the Mayor to demand and compel respect for the law. The for all of us, is our world. No longer can we base our hesitation on the time required to mobilize the power to overcome the mob; that is whole country with one voice supports this vigorous vindication of the law as answered in the news every day, in the swift action of airplanes. A fleet of these, under the control of a United Nations' organization, could instantly compel respect for world courts as the agencies of justice before which differences among nations would have to be settled. *These flying officers of world law and order could be sent on their*

appointed as quickly as Governor Kelly assembled, by telephone, the Michigan National Guard and rushed it to Detroit.

Hasn't the world come, at long last, to the point where the wonderful inventions in man's progress can be used to protect and advance civilization rather than to destroy it? Very likely, the myriad plans for a post-war world might be reduced to nature's first law—self-preservation.

Indeed one of the wisest peace statesmen of his generation, Sir Norman Angell, has long and ably stood for that very thing—the organization of nations, with their independence made secure, on the basic human need of maintaining order against aggressors, so that progress on all other lines might be developed with the war drum silenced. This may be the moment when even such a great dream as that might come true.

HERBERT S. HOUSTON.

New York, June 24, 1943.

Background Causes of Bitterness

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Isn't the fact of the Detroit race riots far less important than the background causes of such bitterness in our country?

Bitterness, a sense of frustration, and urge to revolt against a slower and more orderly adjustment in our racial and religious relations have actually been stimulated by those conspicuous figures in our public life who have so far forgotten the first principles of human nature as to encourage and insist on rapid transformations in the lives and relationships of our colored people and our white people.

This sponsorship of such rapid change is a thoughtless—even a cruel—disservice to all of us alike, and to this great nation at war. It hardly seems possible that in years like these such explosive features of our national life would be agitated by the words and performances of conspicuous men and women in our land, as they have been, and that these people—no matter how well meaning—would run the risk of exciting class-race prejudices by their impatience with the development of what they call universal freedom and equality at home, abroad and throughout the world.

Deep Human Problem

Anyone must know, and certainly the sober-minded colored people that I have grown up with elsewhere in our land know, that the problem of freedom and equality is deep in human nature. They know that the real limits in [illegible] country, to say nothing of the world, exists in the present limits of human nature and the small distance we have gained in our short time along the road to universal education. Such thoughtful colored people are frightened by the hurried goadings of their people by our white people and they wish that these white speechmakers would stop.

Those among us who promise everything to everyone now and present themselves as the champions of the Negroes against their fellow-citizens who are white do not serve the unity or peace of this country. Nor do they, in their haste, serve the success of the democratic idea at home, any more than they serve the world by venting their impatience for this same program throughout the world.

Their intentions, of course, are better than the tyrants'. But their results are chaotic, as we see, and this gives new tyrants a chance.

Their appeals sound liberal and lofty. But the damage they do is clear. Theirs is the road to hate and despair. Theirs is not the road to unity and peace, for the colored people are pressed into action and the white people feel challenged into resistance. Then all is lost sight of, as we see, except the explosion of racial excesses and the retaliation of racial reprisals.

Let me tell you what a thoughtful Negro once told me, a man whose life had been devoted to the betterment of the Negro people in our country, and who knew the strengths and weaknesses of the colored people and who moved among these Americans without any thought of political advantage.

"There is no solving of some problems among men," he told me. "Many racial questions are not so much problems as they are what you might call conditions of life. There is no single fault, although today some of our fellow-citizens who are white and whose voices can be heard by the public as a whole seem to think that they can suddenly undo the conflicts of blood and history by an arbitrary program of so-called equality which is really not equality at all. This must only result in cruel conflicts which leave the dark scar of riots and bloodshed and tear at the very fundamentals of the democratic idea itself."

The magnificent fact of the last hundred years is that America should grow strong and develop as it has without breaking into European-like cells of the different nationalities which came to our shores and spread through our land, and yet without pressing for assimilation in such a way as to recreate Europe's, Asia's and Africa's internal bitternesses.

Like so much in our American life and behavior which has not been perfect but which has, nevertheless, been the envy of the world, the casual mingling of our American people—of all races and religions—at peace has been the most profoundly glorious quality of this nation.

No man or woman in this nation ever should have tampered with this ingredient in our national life. Ignorance of the dangers in this cannot be used as an excuse for the tragedy and bitterness which appear in our newspaper headlines today.

We live in a responsible hour. Our responsibilities to everyone — colored man, white man, rich man and poor man alike—are equal. Broad talk about the races of the world as a whole, which is used to impress the colored people in our country with the speaker's special affection for them, is a tragic political formula. In its suddenness it cannot bring happiness and in its immaturity it cannot bring peace.

Every experienced and enlightened man in the South—white and colored—has known for a long time that these race riots were coming. Furthermore, they know that this is only the beginning.

I have the deepest sympathy for the colored people in these riots. By and large, they have not pushed themselves into this tragic situation. They have been propelled to it by examples which are unsound and words which are reckless.

HENRY J. TAYLOR.

New York, June 24, 1943.

Discrimination Charged

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

In your editorial of June 23 on the Detroit race riot you say, "We ought to take the lid off and look squarely at this shameful thing." Merely as a mild preliminary to taking the lid off, let us look squarely at a few plain facts on the surface.

The Associated Press story in THE TIMES says at least 700 persons were injured. We are not told how many of these were Negroes and how many white. However, twenty-nine persons were killed and "all but three of the dead were Negroes." This means that about 10 per cent of the killing was done by Negroes and about 90 per cent by whites.

Moreover, "an estimated 1,300 persons were under arrest. Police officials said that about 85 per cent of them were Negroes." Finally, "in Recorder's Court today thirty-one men and three women, all Negroes, convicted of disturbing the peace in yesterday's rioting, were sentenced to ninety-day terms."

Thus we see that nearly all the killing was done by whites, and yet nearly all those arrested and absolutely all those sentenced to jail on the first day of the trials of rioters were Negroes.

Mass Hysteria Likely

Your editorial points out that, besides the work of habitual hoodlums, "there was a mass hysteria, involving members of both races and producing violence in men who, whatever their innate prejudices, usually keep within the law." But there was something more than mass hysteria. There was also gross and obvious discrimination in the enforcement of the law.

Furthermore, once a riot is under way, surely mass hysteria cannot be avoided. Is there one of us who would not be liable to hysteria if his life and the lives of his family were immediately threatened under the circumstances that prevailed in Detroit, and if he believed that the police and judicial systems were weighted against him as those systems in Detroit have proved to be?

Nor should we think of Detroit as unique. The recent riots in Los Angeles were much on the same order and there have been smaller race riots elsewhere. This is no time to point the finger of shame at any one community. If the police system and the judicial system in Detroit are weighted against the Negroes, what of the country as a whole?

SAMSON HORN.

New York, June 24, 1943.

Rioting in Detroit Called More Costly Than Many Strikes

Boston Washington, D.C.

By the Associated Press

A War Production Board official declared yesterday that two days of "senseless rioting" in Detroit's racial upheaval cost the Nation a worse setback in war production than was suffered from all the labor disputes in the entire Nation in the first two months of this year."

Joseph D. Keenan, WPB vice said one million man hours of work were lost during the rioting and this was "only a small part of the total cost to war production." He called on labor and management in Detroit and every other war industry center to collaborate with civic groups to correct the causes of racial strife.

What Caused the Detroit Race Riot? It's Simple to Rankin: Negro Equality

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 24.—Rep. John E. Rankin (D., Miss.) said in the House yesterday the Detroit race riot was caused by the Administration's effort to eliminate Negro discrimination in war industries.

Telling Michigan Congressmen who supported the anti-poll tax bill that "their chickens are coming home to roost," Rankin said:

"Detroit, Mich., has suffered one of the most disastrous race riots in history. This



New York, June 25, 1943

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61- 1943

Michigan

Liberals Warn Against More Race Tension; Demand Action

Investigation Of Detroit Situation Is Being Urged

NEW YORK—(A N P)—Charging the Detroit police with lawlessness and condemning Special Prosecutor William Dowling's refusal to convene a grand jury to investigate the recent race riots, the committee against race discrimination of the American Civil Liberties union, headed by Pearl S. Buck, and 10 other national organizations Thursday wired Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle urging an immediate federal grand jury investigation of the Detroit situation.

The telegram, signed by groups devoted to race understanding, referred to newspaper reports that Prosecutor Dowling, supported by Police Commissioner Witherspoon of Detroit, placed the blame for the recent riots on the Negroes. This, the wire said, "has so greatly undermined the confidence of the people of Detroit and the nation that only a federal grand jury investigation of the Detroit riots will be effective."

Atty. Gen. Biddle was told that unless the Detroit race situation is relieved and further friction prevented by the federal government, "serious race riots will break out in more than a dozen cities in the nation where roits are threatened at present."

The civil liberties union committee and the other signers of the telegram asked the attorney general for assurance that the department of justice will institute a federal grand jury investigation at once, "particularly in the light of the evidence of lawlessness on the part of the Detroit police."

The telegram was sent to Biddle following newspaper reports that Special Prosecutor Dowling of Detroit refused to grant the request of Mayor Edward J. Jeffries' Committee on Interracial Peace to convene a local grand jury to investigate the race riots.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
AUG 8 1943

WHERE ARE THE GUILTY POLICE?

More than twenty days after the Detroit race riots, the following news item appeared in the daily press:

Police arrested a participant in the recent race riots today after he had been identified by a newspaper photographer showing him striking a lone Negro being escorted through a crowd of whites by two policemen.

Call

The photo, printed in newspapers throughout the country, caused a great deal of editorial comment. The man, who said he was George Miller, 31-year-old shoemaker, admitted being the person in the picture and was sentenced to 90 days in the house of correction.

Kansas City, Mo.

The credit for the arrest of the white man for participating in the riots is given to the newspapers and photographers and NOT TO THE POLICE.

The evidence, as well as the picture, shows that while two policemen were holding a Negro mob victim a shoe-worker boldly struck him several times in the face and the policemen looked on with passive indifference and tacit approval.

It will be noticed that the police made no effort to arrest the Negro's assailant who went on his way after satisfying his lust for Negro blood.

We again call this particular case to the attention of our readers because we think it a good example of the attitude of the Detroit police during the race riots. Had it not been for the vigilance on the part of a news photographer, George Miller would not have been arrested.

Remember, the same photo lense which made it possible to identify George Miller also made it easy to identify the two policemn, who were holding the Negro victim. But strange to say, no charges are being pushed against the police officers for neglect of duty. Our contention is that the police are just as guilty of a crime as George Miller, because they held the victim while Miller beat him.

JUL 23 1943

If the evidence is as strong as it appears in the picture, the penalty for police should be doubled that of other citizens because they are officers of the law.

JUL 23 1943

The whole picture in connection with this comment, confirms our charge that the police were largely responsible for the prolonged riot in the city of Detroit.

Riot Makes Business Good for Negro Stores

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

With White-Owned Shops Wrecked And Looted, Trade Goes Elsewhere

DETROIT.— (ANP)—Negro looters virtually wrecked every business men in the heart of Para-white owned business place dur-dise Valley, where vandals anding the June 21 rioting, are do-ing a land office business, and secretly hoping the Jewish merchants will find it more difficult to open their stores.

A survey of the district found long lines of Negroes, waiting their turn to be served by Negro grocers, butchers and dealers in fish and poultry and also at the few dry goods stores owned and operated by colored. With fronts of white stores boarded up, Negro grocers found it difficult to take care of the increasing trade.

Two grocers, who prior to the riot barely existed because of competition from two chain stores nearby, admitted they had the grocery trade in a radius of six square blocks "sewed up" and that their biggest difficulty was in getting supplies delivered from wholesale houses.

An increasing number of Negro peddlers has also been noticed in the blighted area. Many have rented wagons and, loaded with produce from the markets, are carrying the produce business to the home of the consumer. OPA investigators reported that they could not find any indications of price pirating either by grocers or the peddlers.

Consumers reported that they are paying much less for groceries than they paid before the riot.

JUL 16 1943

Negro druggists in the upper section of Paradise Valley said they could not keep up with the business because "we just can't get the supplies as fast as the people want them." Several druggists in the area whose places were practically destroyed before being looted will not reopen, it was reported.

Laud Thomas For Detroit Action

Pittsburgh Courier

WASHINGTON, July 8—(ANP)—Laurels were handed to R. J. Thomas, international president of the United Auto Workers, CIO, for the manner in which the Detroit disorders were prevented from spreading to the war plants although absenteeism did make inroads into production.

George L. P. Weaver, administrator for the anti-discrimination committee of the CIO, declared last Wednesday that it was Thomas "forthright position of the past," and the "traditional position he has taken that finally paid dividends in the Detroit riots."

"I think in all the bloodshed that occurred in Detroit it was fortunate that the fighting was kept a[illegible] the machines that were turning out the implements for war against the enemies of all of us," Weaver said. "It demonstrated how the races can work together, even if they are not always living together as well as they might."

JUL 16 1943

Rot in Detroit

Daily Worker

MAYOR JEFFRIES' "inter-racial committee" in Detroit has just presented us with a classic example of how to incite inter-racial antagonism and at the same time protect the pro-fascists responsible for the Detroit anti-Negro riots.

This committee has arrived at the conclusion that the cause of the Detroit shame "are the pressure among the Negroes for equal economic and social rights with the whites and the resistance to that objective."

To put it in plainer English: The insistence by the Negro people upon enjoying the rights which they are accorded by the Constitution and the laws of the land and the refusal of the whites to let them enjoy of inciting the Detroit rioting—in to Pegler's.

It is to block this, to reverse the trend of the times, to create chaos and sharp conflict especially in the war industry centers, that the Fifth Column is working fiercely.

This is nothing less than a white-wash of stitution of lynching!

Of course the Negro people want their equal rights, and they have every need to obtain them. Of course, there is prejudice among whites—but if these war days mean anything they mean that larger and larger many years coming their prejudice and learning how to work fraternally with the Negro people for the common objective of victory.

It is not far from that position to that race prej[illegible]n, like apple Negro press in fact, of

We cannot get to first base in solving the

JUL 1943

problem of according the Negro his rightful place in our national life unless we burn out the Hitlerites and fascists who are seeking to prevent the solution of this problem.

It is high time that the committees set up by Gov. Kelly and Mayor Jeffries be themselves investigated to find out what they are attempting to cover up.

President R. J. Thomas of the UAW told them off well in his speech before the Michigan CIO Convention, and the Convention itself overrode the Trotzkyite and Socialist disrupters to demand the extirpation of the Fifth Column in Detroit. Let all of American labor back that stand and demand immediate federal action.

They Got Their Chance

Much has been said and written about the tragic race riot which occurred in Detroit recently. But there is one lesson from which Negro people, at least, might well ponder. Negro merchants, in the heart of Paradise Valley, who previously had limped along on a hand-to-mouth existence, because Negro consumers preferred to patronize the white competitors, suddenly found themselves doing a land-office business.

A survey of the Negro district, it is reported, found long lines of Negroes, waiting their turn to be served by Negro grocers, butchers, and dealers in fish and poultry and also at dry good stores owned and operated by colored. With fronts of white stores boarded up, Negro grocers found it difficult to take care of the increasing trade. Two grocers, who prior to the riot barely existed because of competition from nearby chain stores, admitted that they had the grocery trade within a radius of six blocks 'sewed up' and that their biggest difficulty was in getting supplies delivered from wholesale houses.

The fact that Negro merchants in Detroit had to wait until a violent race riot came in order to get their opportunity to sell to Negro people in strictly Negro neighborhoods, is a sad commentary upon the pride and self-interests of the Negro consumers. And the usual tale about the white merchant's ice being colder and sugar sweeter than the Negro merchant's, cannot hold water here, since OPA investigators reported that they could not find any indications of price pirating either by grocers or peddlers. Moreover, Negro consumers themselves testified that they are paying much less for groceries now than they paid before the riot.

Negroes in the South, let it be admitted, have many urgent problems crying for solution. But we are thankful that patronage of Negro business enterprises is not one of them. For any Negro business man, who is worth his salt and who has a creditable business, need never worry about Negroes supporting him in the South.

Youthful Hoodlums

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. — (ANP)— According to John S. Bugas, special agent in charge of the Detroit office of the FBI, the recent race riots in Detroit were directly traceable to teen age boys and girls.

He said that the Detroit police force "did a magnificent and heroic job under circumstances that for a time rivaled those on Guadalcanal, Bataan and in North Africa" in a speech before the Michigan Association of Police Chiefs.

Absolving law enforcement despite criticism from "police baiters," Bugas said that riots are a pattern of the rising tide of juvenile delinquency, and threatened to put law agencies to their greatest test in the not far off future.

"If the present trend of many of the youth of this country is not restricted or reformed," he said "the next 10 years will see an avalanche of youthful criminals that will be difficult, if at all possible, to stem."

DETROIT RIOT PICTURES

Detroit—The [illegible] answer Mayor Jeffries' efforts to absolve completely the Detroit police force in a "white paper," the NAACP declared are to be found in the more than 100 action pictures it has on file that were taken by newsmen during the height of the riot. Among these pictures of whites maiming helpless and hopelessly outnumbered Negroes is the now famous shot of a Negro on Woodward Avenue surrounded by a crowd of civilians and mounted police and supposedly in the custody of two policeman while a white assailant strikes him full in the face. Another is a picture of a cowering fear-stricken Negro on whom several white police are closing in.

The NAACP again asked why Jeffries and police commissioner Witherspoon could not make arrests out of the nearly 1000 white rioters whose faces are clearly identifiable in these pictures and who could be easily apprehended by even a mediocre detective. In picture after picture white men are shown maiming, killing and destroying the property of lone Negroes.

While surface quiet has settled here Negro citizens continue to fear that another outbreak will accompany the complete removal of troops from the streets. A gradual withdrawal of these soldiers, all of whom are white, is already in progress.

Governor Harry Kelly informed the NAACP on July 2 that he had, "requested that the troops remain until the state of emergency has been lifted.

WPB Blames Race Riots For Crippling War Plants

DETROIT, Mich. — Repercussions of the recent race riot were still being heard here this week, as Army and War Production Board officials continued their lament over the loss of man-hours the defense industry has suffered since the tragic clash of June 21.

Alarmed by a drastic decrease in war production ranging from 15 to 50 percent, and mounting absenteeism, officials of both departments went on record as appealing to Negro workers to return to their jobs. All major plants operating in this area—Ford, Packard, Detroit Aircraft, Detroit Transmission and General Motors—were reported seeking the aid of officials in the back-to-work appeal.

Col. George E. Strong, industrial relations officer for the Army Air Forces' Central Procurement District and the man who had much to do with avoiding serious trouble in the Packard strike, launched a personal plea for unity and immediate work resumption.

From Washington, D. C. an Office of War Information release sought to bring about a resumption of work in the following statement:

"America suffered a serious setback on the production front in Detroit this week. Preliminary estimates indicate that the rioting directly caused absenteeism from work totalling more than one million man hours. That is only a small part of the total cost to war production. These absences caused stoppages on the transmission lines and conveyor belts in many plants. Productivity of individual workers was likewise impaired.

"From a preliminary survey, we estimate that the two days of senseless rioting in that one city cost the nation a worse setback in the production of [illegible] tanks, material and other equipment than it had suffered from all the labor disputes in the entire nation in the first two months of this year.

"The rioting will cost our fighting men much needed equipment.

"In accordance with our responsibility to secure maximum production by war workers, the WPB Labor Production office calls upon trade unions and management to join at once with other civic groups to seek out and correct the causes of racial strife. To the extent that these causes may involve shortages of community facilities, our office will be ready to render every possible effort to secure remedial action."

Seventy Deputy Sheriffs Needed To Quell Riot

INKSTER, Mich. — (ANP) — Seventy deputy sheriffs and military police, armed with tear gas and guns, were [illegible] Sunday a riot [illegible] men were charged with inciting. The two men are being held by police.

With the assistance of chief of detectives of the sheriff's office, Inkster police disclosed that approximately 150 soldiers from [illegible] Romulus Air [illegible] ly 300 citizens of both races were engaged in the Sunday disturbance.

The alleged altercation is believed to have started when an auto driven by Emory Davis, 23, stopped at the scene. The crowd increased and after a while included a number of whites, soldiers, and Negroes.

It is estimated that 150 soldiers and 300 civilians entered the melee. The crowd was dispersed by 70 deputy sheriffs and military police from Romulus Air Base armed with tear gas and guns.

Davis suffered minor injuries. Police later questioned Mattie Mallory, 18, and Evelyn Hollis, 17, companions of Davis and Reeves.

Reeves got out of the automobile and was also beaten by a gang of whites who gathered at the scene.

FBI Agent Blames Detroit Riot On

61-1943

Michigan

Detroit Race Tension Still High Despite Army Rule

No Plan Evolved to Restore Permanent Peace; Troops to Stay Indefinitely

PM
New York, N. Y.

By Arnold Beichman
Staff Correspondent

JUN 27 1943

DETROIT, June 24.—Army officials and law enforcement officers were openly concerned today that despite the presence of troops here another race riot might erupt at any moment.

And if it does happen, the responsibility will be upon the civilian authorities, including the Mayor of Detroit and the Governor of Michigan, who so far have made no clear cut statement of how they expect to avert any future difficulty.

Officially Brig. Gen. William B. Guthner, commanding the 3300 troops in this area, announced that the soldiers will stay here indefinitely.

"I am not thinking of getting out at all," said Guthner.

The major contribution to "stability" yesterday was an order by Gov. Harry F. Kelly permitting resumption of racing and playing of a double-header between the Detroit Tigers and the Cleveland Indians. Soldiers guarded the ball park and track. Other than that there was a statement that Kelly was considering a demand for a grand jury investigation of the two-day race riot which took 29 lives.

Army troops surround the town. State militia men are moving into strategic spots. Tear gas, sub-machineguns, rifles with fixed bayonets are seen everywhere. But from no one in authority have come the words which would spell out a new deal for this city of discord.

Phony Rumors Probed

And that is why officials I talked to yesterday, as well as Negroes and whites, were frankly apprehensive that the sporadic disorders which even now afflict the Detroit area, with its 2,500,000 population, might burst into another full-fledged riot.

Authorities today were quietly checking the origin of scores of anti-Negro and anti-white rumors. It can be stated authoritatively that the investigation is proceeding on the hypothesis that these phony reports —none of them have been even remotely true—as being "master-minded" by somebody to prevent any semblance of a return to normalcy.

However, all agencies interviewed today minimized the influence of the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion or any other groups as responsible for the riots. Denials were made on and off the record that any Klan probe was under way, although it was made clear that "naturally we're watching those people." So far, the authorities said, not a shred of evidence has been uncovered to show that the Monday mobs were Klan-inspired, Nazi-inspired or Jap-inspired.

"Those mobs didn't need inspiration," one high Federal official said. "They didn't need any subversive leadership, to tell them what to do. We'd love nothing better, just like any decent American citizen, than to see these Fascist gangs tied up with these disorders. But it just isn't there."

Inter-Racial Committee

In the past, however, subversive groups such as the Black Legion, the National Workers League and the German-American Bund have operated openly in Detroit. The Ku Klux Klan is also active here.

Meanwhile Federal officials here have asked Mayor E. J. Jeffries to appoint an inter-racial committee, representing labor, management, the public and government, to develop some program which would enable Detroit to return to the business of turning out the weapons of war.

Among the names submitted to the Mayor for inclusion in the committee are Henry Ford, C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors; R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers, CIO; Dr. Robert Kelso of the University of Michigan, and several others, both Negro and white, who are prominent locally.

Whether a local committee, if appointed, could accomplish anything is debatable. Matters have passed beyond the stage where even an investigation fixing the guilt for the riot could settle any problems.

Louis Martin, 30-year-old editor of the Michigan *Chronicle*, a Negro weekly, said:

"We'd better be frank about this. The race riot and all that gone before have made my people more nationalistic and more chauvinistic and anti-white than they ever were before. Even those of us who were half-liberal and were willing to believe in the possibilities of improving race relations have begun to doubt—and worse, they have given up hope."



A detachment of troops sent to quell Detroit's race riot encamped on the football field of Northwestern High School. *Detroit Free Press Photo*

Martin pointed out that during the race riot here there was no trouble in the mixed blocks where Negroes and whites are neighbors.

Protected Each Other

"They actually protected each other," said Martin. "But where there was a dividing line with separated Negroes and whites, where there was actual segregation like the dividing line along Woodward Ave., there was trouble. Hell, you wouldn't hurt your neighbors. You know them and they know you."

Among the 30 white people I stopped on the main streets today, there were a few—four—who deplored the outbreaks, and there were many who were glad it had happened because "It's about time we kept those niggers in their place."

5 WHITES HELD IN DETROIT

New York Times

Youths Must Stand Trial for Killi[illegible] Negro in Riot

New York, N. Y.

DETROIT, Aug. 1. (AP)—Five white youths were ordered held today for trial on first degree murder charges in the killing of Moses Kiska, 58-year-old Negro, during the raec riots of June 21. They are Aldo Trani, 16; Armendo Mastantuono, 20; Robert Cattone, 17; Anthony Saraceno, 18, and Ralph Tancredi, 20.

Kiska was [illegible] as he stood in a traffic saf[illegible]me by a shotgun fired from an automobile. He was one of twenty-five Negroes and nine white persons killed in the rioting.

Juvenile auth[illegible]s waived jurisdiction in the cases of the minors.

Capt. Mulzac and Crew Demand Punishment of Detroit Traitors

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Captain Hugh Mulzac, noted Negro sea captain, and every member of his crew are demanding prompt prosecution and punishment of the fascist traitors responsible for the killing of Negroes in Detroit last week.

The entire white and Negro crew of the S. S. Booker T. Washington states its stern demand in a letter to Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York.

"While on the high seas sailing hoeward to pick up another cargo of war materials . . ." says the letter, "we heard over the radio with mingled rage and disgust of the fascist attack on the Negro people of Detroit."

The Detroit massacre is part of the Nazi summer offensive in America, the letter continued.

"We know that it is the normal condition for whites and Negroes Hitlerism, just as victory is within our grasp, and so ultimately to divide the American people that fascism can seize power in the United States in the classic man-

The letter, signed by Captain [illegible] by [illegible] in Germany.

NAACP ACCUSED OF TEXAS PASTOR AND

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

[illegible] added, "is the product of [illegible] deliberate, systematic agitation "We know that sinister and [illegible] and of [illegible] treasonable con-disruptive forces really plotted [illegible] during the nine months that[illegible]troit massacre. [illegible] we have lived and worked to- and carried into action the De- [illegible] together on this ship—and manned [illegible] attack from planes or submarines [illegible] we have not shown the slightest [illegible] guns together when under [illegible] civil tension. . . . we do not feel ourselves and of humanity, gether [illegible] divided in any respect, but are spi[illegible] our country and [illegible] as the fingers of one fist in our [illegible] to live and work together in har- resolve to crush [illegible] enemies of we have [illegible] mony," the crew added. [illegible] our country and of humanity, gether [illegible] "Trouble between the races." the—we h[illegible]

STARTING BIG RIOT

White Reporter Distorts Speech Made at Detroit By Rev. A. A. Lucas

By T. John Wood

JUL 23 1943

DETROIT, July 19—(ANP)— The name of the Rev. A. Lucas, pastor of the Good Hope Baptist church, Houston, figured prominently in an open dispute between Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, and A. M. Smith feature writer for the Detroit Daily News (white) after the News reporter last week alleged that the NAACP Emergency conference here early last month stirred up discontent which resulted in the recent race riot.

Rev. Lucas' name entered into the controversy after Walter White had protested to an article in which Smith stated that the conference 'sewed seeds of violence in the hearts of youths, both Negro and white" and that these "seeds fell into the kind of soil in which violence and crime breed."

Smith, in his article, which was the first of a series on crime and juvenile delinquency, alleged that the June 3 to 6 conference was a "fighting" conference and as a result, many Negro and white youth, imbued with this fighting spirit, took pare in the June 21 race war.

Quotes Rev. A. A. Lucas

Protesting the article and the accusation against the NAACP White declared that the conference did not play any part in causing the riot. In defense of his statement, Smith then quoted the Rev. Lucas as having said, "Down in our state of Texas we don't ask; we fight for what we want—and get it." Smith declared, in answer to White, that was "one of the fightingest speeches I have ever heard."

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In a further attempt to link the NAACP conference with the causes of the riot, Smith wrote, "let it be recalled that nearly 50 per cent of those arrested in connection with the riots were under the age of 21 years.

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"To contend that a strictly militant convention, which ended with a mass meeting of 20,000 Negroes, had no influence on the fighting spirit of younger, irresponsible Negroes, is a denial of the laws of psychology, which are as certain as the law of gravity or the chemical law of explosion of powder when you touch a match at it.

"I am certain that the fighting convention of the NAACP in Detroit made the Negro boys much readier to fight than they had been."

JUL 23 1943

Compares NAACP, Urban League

Leaders here believe the News, through the Smith article, was deliberately attempting to "put the heat" on the NAACP. This belief was bolstered when the same writer attempted to compare the NAACP with the National Urban League. The article alleged t hat the program of the league does not coincide with that of the NAACP and pointed out that "many members of the Urban league refuse to affiliate with the NAACP."

Reporter Was Wrong.

Although the feud between Walter White and the Detroit News reporter may be short-lived, it is well to point out here that Rev. Lucas was misquoted by Smith. This reporter, who also covered every session of the NAACP confab, in glancing through notes taken at the religious panel, found the following quotation by the Revin Lucas:

JUL 23 1943

"Down in my state of Texas that is in Houston, the part where I come from, if you want anything bad enough to fight for it, you get it. We don't go around begging we ask for what we can get without a fight, but there are some things Negroes are not going to get without fighting and fighting hard."

JUL 23 1943

Smith admitted that he was only quoting what Rev. Lucas said "in substance."

DETROIT RACE RIOT

DETROIT, June 21. — Widespread race riots that cost the lives of twenty Negroes and three whites, one a physician, and resulted in more than 100 injuries to Negroes and whites alike flickered and flared intermittently this afternoon.

JUN 23 1943

Gov. Harry Kelly of Michigan, before speeding to Detroit from Columbus by Army bomber, ordered Michigan state police and state troops mobilized to preserve order.

The Northwest Enterprise

Mayor Edward J. Jefferies, Jr., of Detroit said he would ask the governor to declare martial law in the city.

Seattle.

About 75 military policemen, drawn chiefly from an Army post at suburban River Rouge, arrived at police headquarters this afternoon. They were to be assigned to patrol duty to relieve servicemen out of the riot areas, police officials said.

JUN 23 1943

Washington

One cause of the emotional disturbance that resulted in the riots was a widespread, erroneous report among the Negroes that a Negro woman and child were slain Sunday on Belle Isle, recreational and swimming spot in the Detroit River.

Mob Takes 34 Lives on Hitler's Day in Detroit!

The Union
Cincinnati. Ohio

Thomas Offers Program to Prevent Renewal of Vicious Race Warfare

JUL 23 1943

Monday, June 21, was Hitler's Day in Detroit.

On that day, mobs of hoodlums took control of the streets; 34 lives were lost, many of them persons who were completely innocent of any participation in the rioting. Workers' homes and hundreds of small businesses were wrecked. Hundreds of persons were injured, most of them also innocent of any participation in the rioting.

Hitler's Day in Detroit was a replica of Nazi riots against trade unionists and racial minorities in cities and countries where Hitler's mobsters have operated in the past. It should be remembered as a day of shame in Detroit and America.

THE UAW'S RECORD

While the white and Negro hoodlums roamed the streets of Detroit, the membership of the UAW-CIO gave a demonstration of the kind of Americanism which made similar violence in the plants impossible. White and Negro workers continued to work side by side, ignoring the incitement of hoodlums and deliberate or hysterical circulators of wild rumors which were even worse than the actualities, horrible as they were.

The only constructive proposals made thus far to prevent repetition of the outbreak of violence between white and Negro Americans have been put forth by R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO. An eight-point program issued by Thomas has received nation-wide publicity and commendation.

President Thomas issued his program not with the purpose of softening punishment of those actually responsible for the deaths and injuries and destruction of property, but rather in an effort to get at basic causes. His program was designed also to solve housing and recreation problems of white workers as well as Negroes.

BACKED BY PRESS

The Detroit Free Press in an editorial endorsed Thomas' program to the hilt. A meeting of the Detroit Metropolitan Council of Churches voiced similar support. Here is the program offered by Thomas in an effort to avert another Hitler Day in Detroit or any other American city:

1. Creation of a special Grand Jury to investigate the causes of the riots and to return justifiable indictments. All Detroit citizens should be asked to furnish whatever pertinent evidence or information they may have. A competent Negro attorney should be appointed as an assistant prosecutor to work with the prosecuting attorney's office and the grand jury.

2. Immediate construction and opening of new park recreation facilities for white and blacks. It is a disgrace to the city that the normal, inadequate park space was permitted to be overtaxed further by the influx of hundreds of thousands of new war workers. It is not surprising that the riots started at Belle Isle Park.

3. Immediate and practical plans for rehousing Negro slum dwellers in decent, Federal-financed housing developments.

Jul 22, 1943

4. Insistence that plant managements as well as workers recognize the right of Negroes to jobs in line with their skill and seniority.

5. A full investigation by the special Grand Jury of the conduct of the Police Department during the riots. While many policemen individually showed heroism and respect for their oath by trying to protect innocent victims of the riots, the work of the police department as a whole was weak and ineffective. I believe that any decent police work could have cleared Woodward Avenue early yesterday and not have permitted mobs to form and reform constantly throughout the day.

7. Special care by the courts in dealing with the many persons arrested. Those found guilty should be severely punished. There must be no discrimination between white and Negro rioters.

Jul 22 1943

7. The loss of homes and small businesses, as well as personal injuries, is the responsibility of the entire community. The city should create a fund to make good these losses of innocent men, women and children, so that the resentment which will be an aftermath of the riots may be minimized.

8. Creation by the Mayor of a special bi-racial committee of ten to make further recommendations looking toward elimination of racial differences and friction. This committee will have a special job in connection with our high schools where racial hatred has been permiitted to grow and thrive in recent years.

Thomas added:

Jul 22 43

"These are reasonable and just recommendations. They should be enacted while Detroit's indignation over mob rule is still hot. The sense of outrage which virtually all of Detroit feels should not be permitted to give way to complacency.

"I should like to compliment the members, committeemen and local officers of the UAW-CIO. The fact that there was no friction or trouble in the plants showed that our membership, white and colored, realized their highest responsibilities and carried them out."—United Automobile Workers, Detroit, Mich., July 2, 1943.

Detroit, Cleveland Game Policed By Riot Troops

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

DETROIT, June 23.—(AP)—Major league baseball under the guns of riot-duty assigned Army troops attracted barely an average wartime midweek crowd to Briggs Stadium today for the double-header between Cleveland and Det

JUN 24 1943

Some 400 of the troops, brought to Detroit to help restore order after violent race riots had swept through the city Monday and Monday night, were scattered through or beneath the stands in small groups. Their presence was one of the conditions under which a ban on public assemblies was modified to permit playing of the games today.

JUN 24 1943

Approximately 3,000 spectators were in the stands capable of accommodating 57,000 when play started.

JUN 24 1943

The soldiers, many of whom had not seen a big league baseball game for many months, sat in the stands with their rifles between their knees and watched the play intently.

Keep Dies Out of Detroit

The Daily Worker

By James W. Ford

If Martin Dies and his un-American Committee come to Detroit you can rest assured there will be new outrages against the Negro people and attacks on the trade unions, the war program and President Roosevelt.

What is needed in Detroit is not more fuel to add to the fire, but suppression of the Ku Klux Klan and all other fifth column groups. The fervent appeal of the Negro people is: "For God's sake Keep Martin Dies Out of Detroit!" The Klan must be suppressed.



James W. Ford

One has to note with alarm that a vigorous campaign is under way to whitewash the Klan as a part of the fifth column instigators of last week's anti-Negro outbursts. The basis for this whitewash is being laid by such utterances as:

"There is no evidence that this riot was organized in anyway by Fifth Columnists."

"We should rid ourselves of the idea that the rioting was organized or instigated by enemy agents of the Ku Klux Klan."

"It is nonsense about the racial troubles being fifth column activity."

These declarations come from the **Detroit News** and its leading columnist, W. K. Kelsey; police superintendent Louis L. Berg; John S. Bugas, head of the local FBI and certain city and state authorities.

All elements of the anti-war coalition and Hitler Fifth Column are still here in Detroit.

SMITH AT LARGE

Gerald L. K. Smith has been scheduled to speak here next week on the topic: "The Insurrection in Washington."

The Social Democrats, "Socialists" and Trotzkyites are crying "Never mind the fith column, the real cause of the riot is jim-crow, bad housing and job discrimination. Let Roosevelt remedy these things before we talk about a fifth column."

The Trotzkyites, their supporters and collaborators are thus in their special way aiding the fifth column by ignoring the grievance of the Negro people and subtly trying to place the blame on President Roosevelt. In obscuring the fifth column, they are prolonging the grievances of the Negro people and preventing a real basis for solution of these grievances.

Another part of this direct and subtle anti-Negro, anti-war activity is the campaign now being started to segregate the Negro people. On June 22, Ralph McGill, editor of the **Atlanta Constitution** wired to the editor of the **Detroit Free Press**: "We are working at it (the race problem) as we know Detroit was working at hers."

We all know that the solution proposed from the South is segregation. There are no more vigorous spokesmen of this policy than the Governor of Alabama and Congressman of Mississippi. They are now trying to take advantage of the Detroit situation to establish southern jim-crow in the north.

RANKIN'S SPEECH

If we need a basis for this southern policy, it was given us by Congressman Rankin on the floor of the House of Representatives several weeks ago. At that time Rankin proposed four solutions for the so-called Negro problem, namely. "one of them is exterminaton. Another one is deportation. Another one would be amalgamation, which would destroy the white man's civilization."

The fourth method proposed by the Mississippi Congressman was "segregation," under which the Negro would have a better time."

This fourth proposal was repeated again by Rankin in the House of Representatives on June 23, in a bitter tirade against the Negro people and the war program.

"Detroit," said the Mississippi Congressman, "has suffered one of the most disastrous race riots in history. This trouble has been hastened by the crazy policies of the so-called Fair Employment Practices Committee in attempting to mix the races in all kinds of employment."

HITLERITE SLOGANS

These utterances speak for themselves. They are Hitlerite expressions. They are proposals to segregate the Negro people and to interrupt war production in Detroit plants.

All of this is fuel for the Dies Committee which proposes to "investigate Japanese agents who are working to stir up the Negroes and interfere with war production and to break down home front morale."

But the purpose stated by Dies for coming to Detroit is an obvious lie. Everybody knows that Japanese influence among Negroes is so negligible as to serve only as a basis for Martin Dies to shift the blame for last week's anti-Negro outburst away from the main enemy—the Hitler fifth column, the Ku Klux Klan and other subversive groups—and to stir up new outrages against the Negro people. The Negro people demand that these fifth column elements be apprehended at once and that the Ku Klux Klan be disbanded!

The overwhelming majority of the Negro people in the United States and in Detroit are as much concerned as any other section of patriotic Americans that the fifth column, saboteurs and agents of the enemy be apprehended, convicted and sentenced in accordance with the seriousness of their treasonable acts.

The trial and conviction of Japanese agents in New York in January of this year proved among other things that their activity had no influence among the overwhelming majority of Harlem Negroes. The Negro people are convinced beyond any need to lecture them about their patriotism and the affront to accuse them of being influenced by Japanese propaganda that their fate rests with the fate of the nation!

"For God's Sake Keep Martin Dies out of Detroit."

RACIAL TENSIONS IN MIDWEST EASED

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Observers Incline to Belief Detroit Violence Has Had a Salutary Consequence

SOME FEAR ONLY A LULL

Mayor Kelly Prepares Wide Plan to Minimize Sources of Friction in Chicago

By TURNER CATLEDGE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, July 5—Persons here vitally concerned with the race problem are beginning to believe that, tragic as the Detroit rioting was, it might turn out to be a factor in easing the tension between Negroes and whites in the industrialized area of the Middle West. Many are beginning to liken it to a violent storm in the middle of a sultry summer afternoon.

No one regards the relief, if such it be, as more than temporary, but there have been evidences in the last ten days—since a few days after the Detroit disturbance—of a lowering of interracial temperatures. This is especially true in Chicago.

Provocateurs who get going in both races in the days of the Detroit rioting apparently have spent their course, at least for the time being.

What started out to be a hell-bent-for-leather movement for a march on Washington fell flat among the Negroes, and the whites within the fringe from which trouble usually comes have been extremely quiet in Chicago. Police report that fights and squabbles between Negro and white youngsters have been at one of the lowest points in years in the last few days. People generally in the large South Side Negro section and the white sections that border it seem relaxed, or at least quieter than usual.

Strive for Interpretations

Some observers are disposed to read omens in these things. Knowing well the basic conditions of the race problem in Chicago and other mid-West areas, they are afraid that the relative tranquillity may be a lull before another storm.

More optimistic persons see, however, the budding of more realistic approach to the question from both sides—to the question of what is to be done from now on. This group proposes, furthermore, that practical people take practical steps during this lull to try to extend it into a general, continuing condition.

Of this latter group is Mayor Edward J. Kelly, who told us that he meant to back up the motto "It won't happen here"—which Chicago Negro leaders devised—with the means to insure its validity.

He told us he would announce soon members of an inter-racial committee to plan and carry out such concrete steps as the immediate improvement in housing conditions in the South Side and clarification of policies of Chicago industries relative to the employment and advancement of Negroes. The committee would also act to minimize the irritations used to both Negroes and whites by overcrowding of transportation and recreation facilities, devise means for meeting the difficulties caused by price control, rationing, black markets and other war developments.

"You can tell the country that we simply are not going to have here what occurred in Detroit," Mayor Kelly declared.

Warning to Law Violators

"The vast majority of our Negroes and our white people are law-abiding citizens, and we are going to remove every cause of friction between the great peaceful elements of the two. As to the law violators and criminals, that is another story. They are going to be dealt with—in all races—with the full strength of our law-enforcement facilities."

In outlining the course he expected his proposed interracial committee to take, Mayor Kelly summarized the sore spots which all observers—officials, civic leaders, Negro spokesmen, sociologists and just plain people—tell you are present in the Chicago race problem.

The lack of adequate housing for Negroes is perhaps the chief of the problems.

The Mayor insisted that something must be and will be done about this, despite the restrictions of old landlord covenants and despite the specific objections, both among whites and some Negroes, to some of the projects.

The employment situation among the Negroes in Chicago is vastly improved over what it was when the war started, but leaders in both races say that there is still "Jim Crowism" in hiring and upgrading. Negro spokesmen contend that this can be traced to pressure from the South.

What observers here regard as one of the most likely sources of overt conflict is the relationship between white merchants and Negro customers in the Negro communities. Negroes have alleged wide price-ceiling violations and discrimination against them by these white merchants in favor of whites who invade the Negro sections for household supplies.

Long Grievance Background

The Negro grievance against merchants has a long background, including complaints that the white stores do not employ enough Negro clerks, that they compete with Negro merchants and that they charge exorbitant prices. Officials here were greatly and alarmingly impressed with the fact that in the Detroit riots Negro looters made special target of the white stores in their district.

Another problem growing out of

The Word Is "Insurrection"

THERE was something fresh, clean, as clean as the sea breezes through which his ship plies, in the statement on the Detroit "riots" by Capt. Hugh S. Mulzac, Negro skipper of the "SS Booker T. Washington." Captain Mulzac and his crew of white and Negro wrote in a letter to Cong. Vito Marcantonio, "During the nine months that we have lived together and worked together on this ship—and manned the guns together when under attack from planes or submarines—we have not shown the slightest racial tension. . . ." This, the hardy salts wanted America to understand, is the way black and white can live together unless sinister agents operate among them to stir dissensions, to pit color against color for subversive reasons. And the crew of the famous ship put the spotlight on the reasons for the Detroit insurrection when they said that trouble between the races is the product of deliberate agitation and of "treasonable conspiracy."

At home other brave voices arose, demanding immediate action; most notably Philip Murray, head of the CIO, Ferdinand Smith, chairman, and Charles Collins, secretary, of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, Lester Grainger, of the National Urban League, and many others. Walter White, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, wired President Roosevelt urging him "to go on the radio at the earliest possible moment and appeal to America to resist Axis and other propaganda which is the cause of outbreaks within the last fortnight."

From Detroit itself the nation heard Pres. R. J. Thomas of the United Automobile Workers, say at the Michigan CIO convention: "I'll prove to the Grand Jury that leaders of the Ku Klux Klan in the city of Detroit were leading the rioters." He referred to the former leader of the Packard Local who was known as a Klansman. And he excoriated the "fact-finding" committees appointed by Mayor Jeffries of Detroit and Governor Kelley of Michigan, whose white-wash of the subversives had aroused the indignation and alarm of many Americans. President Thomas urged that the fact-finders themselves be investigated.

Nor were these racial and labor leaders alone in the demands for action: outstanding figures in various fields—men like Paul Muni, of the stage, and John Howard Lawson, of the movies, who wrote the script for the magnificent photoplay "Action in the North Atlantic," also spoke up. Muni: "The strongest measures must be taken by our President to punish the guilty ones." Lawson: "There is an unfortunate tendency to view these events from a social worker angle, to see them only in terms of inequality, lack of opportunity, and consequent maladjustment. . . ." Of course, he said, the latter factors exist, but total preoccupation with them "tends to obscure the role of organized treason." Certainly those factors must be cleared up, and successful prosecution of the war tends to clear them up; but the only real answer, now, Mr. Lawson indicated, "lies in a real crack-down on the fifth column in this country."

Unfortunately, however, responsible officials, and some other public figures, did not see things as clearly as these men. Governor Kelley's "fact-finding" committee succeeded in mixing things up dangercusly, blaming the riots upon the pressure among the Negroes for equal economic and social rights with the whites and "the resistance to that objective." James Boyd, a southern liberal, adopted a similar position in the "Nation" week before last; in effect condemning Negroes for believing in the Constitution and in the rights guaranteed them. Altogether too many writers looked upon the peril from what might be termed a purely "sociological" viewpoint. They failed to see the "riots" as manipulations by the fifth column; they miss[illegible] connection of these disturbances with the war, and thereby failed to capture the truth: that they are an integral part of an insurrection against the American war effort. These publicists played into the hands of such subversives as Martin Dies, who had the gall to complain—at this time!—of "coddling" the national minorities. They overlooked the menace of such men as that nauseating phenomenon on the American scene, Westbrook Pegler, who sees eye to eye with Hitler: "Prejudice flows in the blood of mankind and we have never been free of it nor ever will be." (New York "World-Telegram," June 29.) Pegler saw the Negro press as the principal culprit.

No—this insurrection will not be put down until the people see their peril clearly and act in unison behind the President to end it. President Roosevelt called the Detroit events an "insurrection," a hard word but a true one. It demands hard, decisive, immediate action.

Detroit Poles See Nazi Plot in Riots

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT, Mich.—The sentiments of patriotic Polish-Americans toward the Axis-inspired anti-Negro riots in Detroit are expressed in a stirring editorial in the latest issue of PEOPLE'S VOICE, National Polish-American labor paper published in Detroit. The editorial follows:

JUN 27 1943

Polish-Americans should have little difficulty in recognizing the Axis conspiracy behind the anti-Negro riots.

From bitter experience the Polish people in the country of our fathers have learned how the Nazis have used race discrimination in the subjugation of Poland.

Hundreds of thousands of Poles have perished because Hitler has stated that the Polish people are an "inferior race" and has pledged ultimately to destroy them.

This racist line has been brought to Detroit in the most brutal and disgraceful form—the anti-Negro rits which saw at least 28 people killed and over 700 injured. The purpose of these riots has been to disrupt production in this vast armament center, to smash the growing unity of all Americans and to disrupt the home front in a desperate effort to delay the decisive Second Front in Europe.

LEWIS' PROVOCATION

This is a continuation of the general nation-wide conspiracy in which John L. Lewis' strike provocations lead directly into anti-Negro riots.

Had bombs been dropped from Nazi planes greater damage could not have been wrought in decreasing war production. The War Labor Board has announced that production has dropped off from 15 to 50 per cent. That means that the half-million Polish-American boys who are in Uncle Sam's Army may have to pay with their lives because of lack of equipment.

Even more serious is the effect of the anti-Negro riots upon the morale of the entire community. The effect upon Negroes engaged in the production of vital arms is obvious, but the effect upon the vast majority of our patriotic white citizens who have been forced to witness this shameful activity cannot be underestimated.

In the midst of a war for survival they have seen a handful of Axis agents and hoodlums create a serious threat to victory.

It is unfortunate that some members of the Polish-American community have been duped into participating in violent action. The scenes on Chene St. and in Farrien Park are not a reflection of the sentiments of a vast majority of loyal, patriotic Polish-Americans.

HAMTRAMCK AN EXAMPLE

This is best illustrated by the exemplary behavior of our citizens of Hamtramck. Outside of a very few isolated disturbances, the community was calm and had no part in any of the violence, although this violence occurred in most of Detroit.

In the rich traditions that Polish-Americans treasure we have the contribution of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who was among the first in America to recognize the need for giving freedom to the Negro slaves and granting them the opportunities to be citizens of our country.

It is in following these rich traditions that Polish-Americans can play the important role that all of America expects.

The anti-Negro riots must be condemned as Nazi-inspired. . .

Polish-Americans join with the white and Negro leaders in the demand that Attorney General Biddle immediately investigate the activities of the 5th Column and the Ku Klux Klan. . . .

They will reject all rumors and provocations deliberately circulated in their communities and recognize them for what they are—another version of the German campaigns which took place in Poland.

The fate of the Polish people depends on the opening of a second front that will smash Hitler this year. Every day of Nazi rule in Poland means death for tens of thousands of Poland's finest sons. These riots are delaying that triumph which will liberate Poland.

All Polish-Americans will rally to the program of President Roosevelt and the needs of national unity. They will refuse to fall into an Axis trap.

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J. Edgar Hoover In Detroit Speech Says Nation Fights On Two Fronts

FBI Head Says Police Must Recognize Responsibility for Law Enforcement

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Civil violence, race riots and insidious campaigns against minority groups are a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans, J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Detroit, Michigan last Monday.

Calling upon police officers to recognize their responsibility for law enforcement and to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore peace in the case of such outbreaks but our part of the conflict, like the Mr. Hoover said that the war couldother, affects every home in the be won on the sea and in the airland and every man on the foreign and land campaigns and yet be lost fighting fronts."

on the home front.

In a direct attack on race riots, the director stated:

"Another problem which is rapidly reaching flood time proportions involves civil violence, race riots, and insidious campaigns against minority groups. It is a national disgrace and a reflection upon all Americans that altercations between individuals can touch off community-wide conflagrations, which are often seized upon, by young teen-age hoodlums, of both sexes, to indulge in depredations of all kinds against property and persons.

"Law enforcement is not responsible for such outbreaks. But, once lawless bands of people begin to take matters into their own hands, law enforcement does become responsible. When outbursts occur, pitting race against race, creed against creed, every officer must recognize his responsibility and realize that the only intelligent course of action is to adopt vigorous, prompt, and firm measures to restore peace. If force must be met with force, see to it that the protectors of law and order are marshalled in superior strength without delay and that they function for the good of all, with proper regard for the rights of all. Remember that crime thrives, violence and murder rage, only where law and public resistance are weak.

War On Two Fronts

"This Nation is waging war on two fronts. It is waging war against the international purveyors of tyranny and barbarity that spring from the hellish hates of duplicity and chicanery which fester in chancelleries and palaces abroad. Their guns, bayonets, bombs, and tanks are aimed to crush the liberties of free people everywhere. Pillage, plunder, and destruction are their goal.

"The other front is against our enemies at home who are just as determined, just as ruthless. The war could be won on the sea, in the air and land campaigns, and yet be lost on the home front. We of law enforcement fight less conspicuously,

BOARD DECIDES NEGROES PARTLY GUILTY IN RIOTS

troit Calls Uprising Unpremeditated.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 11 (AP).—Detroit's race riots of last June 21 were not planned or premeditated, nor were they inspired by subversive enemy influence, a fact-finding committee appointed by Gov. Harry F. Kelly to investigate the disturbances reported today.

The committee blamed the outbreak of violence on racial tension which "was inflamed as a result of several disconnected incidents provoked by a group of Negroes."

The report, dealing with nearly every phase of the disorders in its 10,000 words, was prepared by a group consisting of Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling, Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton, Detroit Police Commissioner John E. Witherspoon, and State Police Commissioner Oscar Olander.

Traced to False Rumor.

"The looting and accompanying rioting followed the spreading of a false rumor by Leo Tipton, Negro, to the effect that whites had killed a colored woman and her child at Belle Isle," it stated.

Thirty-four deaths and nearly 800 injuries resulted from disorders which followed. Tipton is being held on a charge of inciting to riot.

"Irresponsible white and Negro youths," the report said, "were responsible for most of the casualties and the damage resulting. The ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with the law violators."

The report was prepared and documented in the office of Dowling, who is maintained that, to date, he has not been given sufficient evidence to warrant a grand jury investigation of the rioting.

Started 5 Miles Away.

The report says that the rioting might have been localized on Belle Isle [a public park on the Detroit river], avoiding all the deaths, 98 per cent of the injuries, and 95 per cent of the property damage if Tipton had not called a gathering of negroes at a social club five miles from Belle Isle.

Asserting that stabbings, stonings, and looting by roving gangs followed quickly in the wake of Tipton's statement, the report declared that Negro rioting in the east side Negro area began shortly after midnight, Sunday [June 20] but that whites did not retaliate until 4 a. m. Monday.

"This committee," the report concludes, "is of the firm conviction that both white and Negro rioters lacked preconceived or premeditated organization."

Few Migrants Involved.

At Mackinac Island, Gov. Kelly also received today a report from Dr. C. . Ramsey, of the state social welfare department, on interviews with 340 persons arrested in the race riots.

The persons interviewd, the Ramsey report said, were not recent migrants to Detroit; 74 per cent have resided in Detroit five years or more. Most of the men had steady employment, two thirds in industry doing war work, with salaries averaging $54 a week.

Forty-five per cent of the men were married; nearly 40 per cent had attended high school, the report said. Approximately 25 per cent were considered illiterate. About 13 per cent were observed to exhibit emotional qualities of psychopathic personalities.

Eighteen per cent had been rejected for military service.

"The interviewed men," Dr. Ramsey reported, "were not instigators, nor did they seem to have any previous knowledge of planned action, but became involved mainly out of their individual reaction to the situation."

WASTED MANPOWER

Tribune

By ALBERT BLACK

By ALBERT BLACK

"Justice, being destroyed, will destroy; being preserved, will preserve."—Manu.

Philadelphia, Pa.

The long awaited report of the committee named by Michigan's Governer, Harry B. Kelly, on the race riot of June 20-21 was made public last Wednesday. The principal blame for the riot was laid on the shoulders of colored leaders who insisted on political, economic and social equality for their race.



BLACK

Having evaded the basic cause of the riot, Governor Kelly's committee said a study should be made by the proper social agencies. Nevertheless, it swings a blitzkreig attack on colored leaders and the colored press for stirring up colored people to fight for their rights. For speaking and writing the truth, colored leaders were guilty of a criminal act inciting a riot.

What was so significant about this commission was its pro-Fascist attitude in regard to this issue. The representatives of justice that compose the committee blames colored Americans for taking seriously the promise of the Four Freedoms. This in itself is a damnable situation, and on top of it all, the U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, is said to have recommended to the White House that colored workers be prohibited from moving into overcrowded production centers because another chaos may develop such as happened in Detorit, Los Angeles and Newark.

Its is as plain as the nose one one's face that in neither Gov. Kelly's committee report nor that of Atty. Gen. Biddle was there any mention of the petty and biased prejudices introduced by the migrating southern element, the basic underlying reason for the Detroit riot.

I ask myself, "What kind of justice exists in the United States?" It cannot be true justice because justice is truth in action. The only justice that does exist in this country is white justice.

White troops were called out to quell the Detroit riot. When colored soldiers in a nearby camp tried to go to the defense of their families, they were put in the guard house, and as a result will be tried for mutiny. Hundreds of colored people were dragged from street cars and buses, were beaten, their stores destroyed, and their homes fired Yet, the representatives of justice in Detroit killed only Negroes, and 90 per cent of the arrests were Negroes.

Don't the President, Atty Gen. Biddle and other representatives of our government realize that the eyes of 15,000,000 citizens are on them? Is it possible for anyone to believe that the arrest of five soldiers at Ft. Custer, Michigan, will extinguish the fire that is raging in the soul of every colored soldier and civilian? Does anyone believe they will forget?

The Harlem riot was, in a sense, a blind unorganized feeling of resentment against the situation, and on top of it all, the injustice that the colored soldier in the South receives and, in general, the justice the colored civilian receives in part throughout the country. The point is, that whenever the club of injustice falls upon the head of one colored man, wherever he may be—Beaumont, Detroit, Birmingham, or Chester—it falls not upon that one alone, but upon the whole race.

An analysis of the recent

I would like to quote a part of important to recognize clearly Victor Bernstein's editorial on the path which we are following in race relations—the path of "white justice" which was printed in a recent issue of "P M." This liberal and militant writer realizes the chaos that which engenders more brutal

Harlem riot can be that colored would develop if justice is gone American is just about fed up with partial justice. His cup of patience is about to run over. He states, "But I think it's

not about their own lives. not about law, strength at any time, in any won't give a for them. We can assert our 00 Americans about that. We are too many in the end we never has been any question

WE WILL ASSIST IN THE PREVENTION OF ANY CHALLENGE IN FACT OR IN LAW TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ANY CITIZEN

Whitewash For Race Riot

Philadelphia Tribune, Philadelphia, Pa.

(Editor's Note: We are reprinting below verbatim an editorial from the Philadelphia Inquirer, issue of August 13th, which expresses exactly our reaction to the report of the "fact-finding" committee appointed by Gov. Kelly of Michigan to probe the cause of the riot in D[illegible]

AUG 21 1943

PROBLEMS springing from racial tension are not to be solved by such whitewashing as that indulged in by the Governor of Michigan's fact-finding committee concerning the Detroit riots of June 20-21.

AUG 21 1943

The very make-up of this committee was enough to make its findings suspect from the start. It consisted of the State Attorney General, the county prosecutor, the police commissioner and the head of the State Police. These are the key officials charged with law enforcement. To ask them to sift the causes of an outbreak that got beyond police control was absurd on the face of it.

They come up with the less-than-sensational conclusion that the riots were not instigated by enemy agents nor were they planned in advance. They lay the main blame upon the circulation of false rumors, the actions of Negro hoodlums and the inflammatory statements of certain Negro leaders and publishers.

AUG 21 1943

Hoodlumism feeds upon race riots of course, as it does upon any public disturbance that temporarily nullifies police authority. But it is not to bear down on Negro hoodlums alone. Nor is it just to condemn as "inflammatory" Negro pleas for the equality which is their Constitutional right.

AUG 21 1943

It is childish to blame false rumors for racial outbreaks and ignore the underlying grievances that make almost any rumor an acceptable spark to set off the waiting gunpowder of violen[illegible]

AUG 21 1943

Instead of such generalities as "determined, straightforward, sociological measures," the committee ought to urge practicable means of combating riot-provoking rumors. An emergency committee of Negro leaders trusted by their fellows, who could dispose of false reports as quickly as they are started, would be helpful.

AUG 21 1943

So would inter-racial agencies to which specific grievances could be submitted. So would a police policy with respect to Negroes that would remove from these people the conviction that all policemen are their natural enemies.

Above all, the basic need, if we are to live together in peace regardless of race or color or creed, if tiny sparks of nasty rumor are not to set A[illegible]an against American in bloody battle, is for a decent, honorable treatment of our fellow humans, with justice for all—for ALL.

AUG 21 1943

An Unjust Report

Amsterdam [illegible]-News
New York, N. Y.

Following the Detroit riot of June 20-21, Gov. Kelly of Michigan appointed a fact finding committee to determine its causes. The committee was composed of four persons: the Attorney General of the State; the State Police Commissioner; the Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County (Detroit), and the Police Commissioner of Detroit. Before the committee's report was made public, William E. Dowling and John [illegible]herspoon, respectively Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County and Detroit Police Commissioner, declared that the riot was caused by Negro youth ranging in age from 13 to 20, by the NAACP and the Negro press.

AUG 28 1943

Therefore, it was no surprise when the committee's report was made public, it placed the blame for the riot on Negro people and their reputable institutions. Nevertheless, Gov. Kelly's committee has done the entire Negro population of this country and racial amity irreparable harm. It has laid the foundation for another riot not only in Detroit, but in many other critical war areas by its stupid and hypocritical findings.

Three hundred thousand white southerners, commonly called hillbillies in Detroit, have migrated to that city since the war started. Today, there are a half million southern whites in Detroit—one-fourth of its population. These people have brought to the "Arsenal of Democracy" (one-sixth of all our war goods is manufactured in Detroit) their racial and religious prejudices. They are easy prey for the Ku Klux Klan and other fascist organizations that thrive in Detroit more than anywhere else in the country.

AUG 28 1943

Yet, the Governor's committee said not one word about the known activities of the Klan and other subversive groups that work both sides of Detroit's streets day and night in their demagogic preachments of racial, religious and other kinds of strife. By sticking its head in the sand and ignoring the true facts of racial conditions in Detroit, the committee has done the war effort, the people of Detroit and the entire nation a serious injustice. Its easiest way out of the racial mess that now exists in Detroit was to blame the riot on colored people. Nothing could have been more unfair and unjust. Detroit has let itself in for a bigger and more horrible explosion.

Argus

DETROIT RIOT AGAIN

The "whitewash" given the Detroit riot by the Fact Finding Committee appointed by the governor of the state of Michigan is anything but satisfying to the vast majority of people of the city and state and the people of other states.

When any issue over which the public has become aroused to the extent that demands an investigation, and the said investigation ignores facts in order to cover up the wrongdoings of public officials, the people immediately accuse the investigators of whitewashing the case in order to mke it appear clean, when in fact it is as foul as the cesspools beyond the gates.

St. Louis, Missouri

In this connection it might be interesting to note that on this committee were attorney General Herbert J. Rushton, Commissioner Oscar G. Olander of the State Police; Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County, William E. Dowling, and John Witherspoon, Police Commissioner of Detroit. All of these officials were to some extent directly responsible for the spreading of the riot or persecution of the guilty.

Their report which stated that the Negroes were responsible for the riot at Detroit June 20-21, shows to the world that they are totally unfit to hold public office. Happily the people of Detroit are now beginning to feel the public stigma because of this biased report.

Taking up the cudgel in a fight to further expose the fraudulent report made by [illegible] public officials, the Detroit chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild has passed resolutions condemning the whole investigation by the governor's committee as a whitewash and fraud upon the public.

SEP 17 1943

VICE-PRESIDENT WALLACE MAY BECOME THE

New York, N. Y.

Nation

stepchild of the Roosevelt Administration for millions of workers and small farmers his Detroit speech was still the authentic voice of the New Deal. Judging from reactions to that speech, one of Wallace's best, he is to serve a dual role politically. On the one hand, he is to help keep labor lined up for Roosevelt. On the other, he is to be a kind of lightning rod to draw off right-wing criticism from the President himself. For labor, the renomination of Wallace in 1944 becomes a prime consideration, a test of labor's strength and some guaranty that the Administration will not go all the way on the path of appeasement. That Senator Guffey, who rarely makes important pronouncements without White House approval, should have gone on record for Wallace as Vice-Presidential nominee in 1944 may be significant. It may indicate, as did the President's praise of the speech, that Wallace can have his place on the ticket if he can stir up enough political support by the time of the convention. The slurs of the conservative press attest the fact that the Detroit speech drew blood. What we liked most about it was that in Detroit, [illegible] one of the recent anti-Negro outbreaks, [illegible] Vice-President pulled no punches on the race issue. "We cannot fight to crush Nazi brutality abroad," Mr. Wallace declared, "and condone race riots at home."

AUG 6 1943

AUG 28 1943

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

AUG 7 1943

Detroit City Council Closes Book on Riot; Overrides Mayor

AUG 28 1943

DETROIT.—As far as the City Council here is concerned, the June riots are a closed issue.

The Council rode rough-shod over a plea by Mayor Edward Jeffries and Councilman George Edwards last week to create a special one-man Grand Jury to place responsibility for the unnecessary killings in the riot as well as to investigate the actual causes behind the disturbances.

Typical of the attitude of the majority of the Council members was the opinion put forth by Councilman Gus Dorais that the police and FBI have "done everything possible" to ferret out the causes of the disturbances. Dorais said [illegible] investiga-

Insists on Probe

But Mayor Jeffries is insistent that further probe should be conducted into the rioting. Of the four-man committee appointed recently by Governor Kelly which put the blame for the riots on Negro press and leaders, Jeffries said:

"It is also my mind that a Grand Jury should further investigation is necessary."

In addition to the reason, I haven't changed their reasons than to prove every [illegible] of getting at the source of the disturbances has been exhausted.

AUG 28 1943

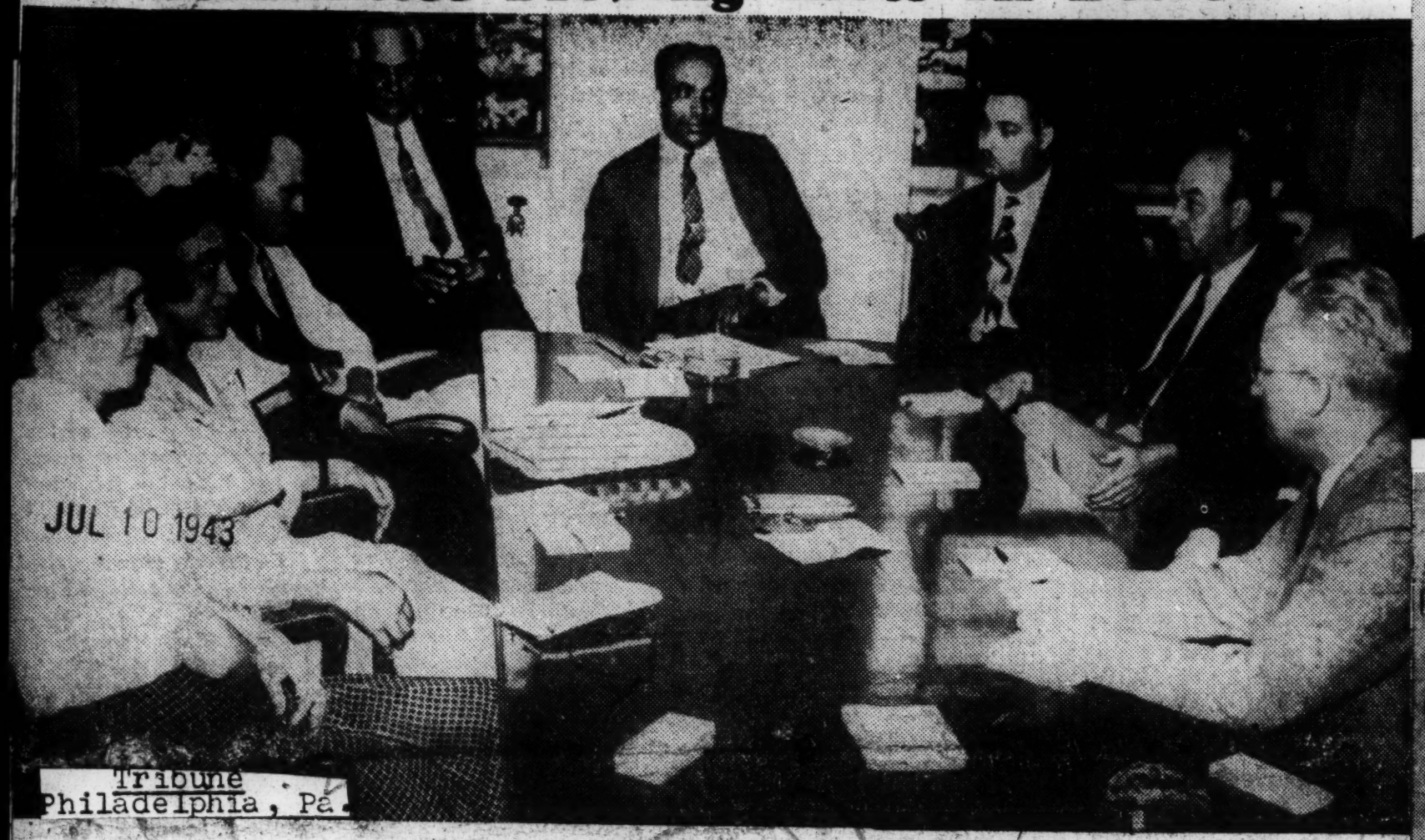
AUG 20 1943

[illegible] shows there was a pattern

61-1943

Michigan

Committee Probing Riots In Detroit



JUL 10 1943

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

One of the first moves taken in his determination to prevent a recurrence of the violent race conflict that shook this city last week, was the appointment of a ten-member fact-finding committee by Mayor Jeffries, to delve into Detroit's racial problems.

The committee, composed equally of white and colored members, is pictured above, left to right: Mrs. Adelia Stanett, Mrs. Beulah Whitby, Rev. George W. Baber, William J. Norton, Charles H. Mahoney, Rev. Charles Hill (chairman of the Detroit Interracial Citizen's Committee); Louis Martin, Editor of the Michigan Chronicle; John F. Ballenger, Fred M. Butzel and J. T. Sheafor.

One of the committee's first requests—that colored troops be included in those brought to Detroit—was ignored. The only colored soldiers in Detroit after the riot were those there on furlough.

JUL 10 1943



REP. MARCANTONIO



DR. MAX YERGAN

Marcantonio, Yergan, White Score Official Alibi for Detroit Rioters

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

AUG 16 1943

Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president, International Labor Defense; Dr. Max Yergan, president, the National Negro Congress, and Walter White, secretary, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, yesterday denounced the whitewash of the anti-Negro rioters in Detroit by the report of the committee set up by Governor Kelly of Michigan.

Marcantonio said the report, which blamed the Negro people, instead of their assailants, was "subversive of unity" and "a cowardly tribute . . . to the influence of Hitler and his fifth column, including the Ku Klux Klan."

This report shifted the blame from the Klan, Gerald L. K. Smith, the National Workers League and other fifth columnists to the victims, the Negro people themselves.

A COMFORT TO HITLER

AUG 16 1943

"The American people," stated Marcantonio, "should repudiate this report, which is contrary to every known fact of the Detroit riots. . . .

"By its whitewash of the fifth column the report is an actual incitement to more riots by the same fifth column elements that it protests. It is as subversive of unity as Martin Dies and the Ku Klux Klan. It must comfort Hitler to know that these officials in the United States support his race theories, and give aid to his agents who seek to divide our people one against another.

"Officials who are derelict in their duty of prosecuting the fifth column, who appease the Ku Klux Klan and other domestic fascist groups and organizations, have no place in the organization of a nation at war with Hitler and Hitlerism.

"I urge every person and organization to let Governor Harry B. Kelly, Lansing, Michigan, know that his committee cannot get away with this report. It is the kind of report Hitler would ex-

pect his agents in this country to write."

Governor Kelly's committee, said Dr. Max Yergan, "absolves of blame any subversive elements."

"We believe the committee's findings," he added, "represents an unwarranted attack upon the Negro press and Negro organizations, whose efforts to secure full participation of the Negro people in the war effort [illegible] have been noteworthy."

Both Walter White and Marcantonio bared the unfitness of Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling of Wayne County as a member of the Governor's Committee. Marcantonio, in fact, had previously urged the governor to remove Dowling as prosecutor because of his "bias, prejudice and bigotry" against Negroes.

Walter White also emphasized the anti-Negro record of Detroit's Police Commissioner, John E. Witherspoon, another member of

AUG 16 1943

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 15.—The Fin[illegible] Committee Michigan's fact-finding committee beyond police control was absurd [illegible] Governor Kelly concerning the Detroit riots [illegible] the face of it."

wi[illegible] to race June 20-21.

Army Ends Trial of Negroes.

"The very make-up of this com[illegible] Fort Custer, Mich., Aug. 3 (U.P.)—Col. Ralph Wiltamuth, post commander, today announced termination of court-martial proceedings against [illegible] Negro servicemen charged with violation of the Articles of War [illegible] police commissioner, and the head of the State Police. These are the key officials charged with law enforcement. To ask them to sift the causes of an outbreak that [illegible]

mittee was enough to make it [illegible] largest findings suspect from [illegible] which generally re- consisted [illegible] General, the county prosecutor, th[illegible]

ve Republican opin-

ringing from racia[illegible] ot to be solved by [illegible] shing as that in [illegible]

AUG 16 1943

hours, from 4 A. M. June 21, until so-called Fact Finding Committee 11 A. M. that same day. During this period more than 1,500 persons were arrested of whom 85 per cent were Negroes. Seventeen of the 25 slain Negroes were killed by police.

Other members of the committee were Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton and State Police Commissioner Oscar Olander.

Witherspoon's police [illegible] the committee, says:

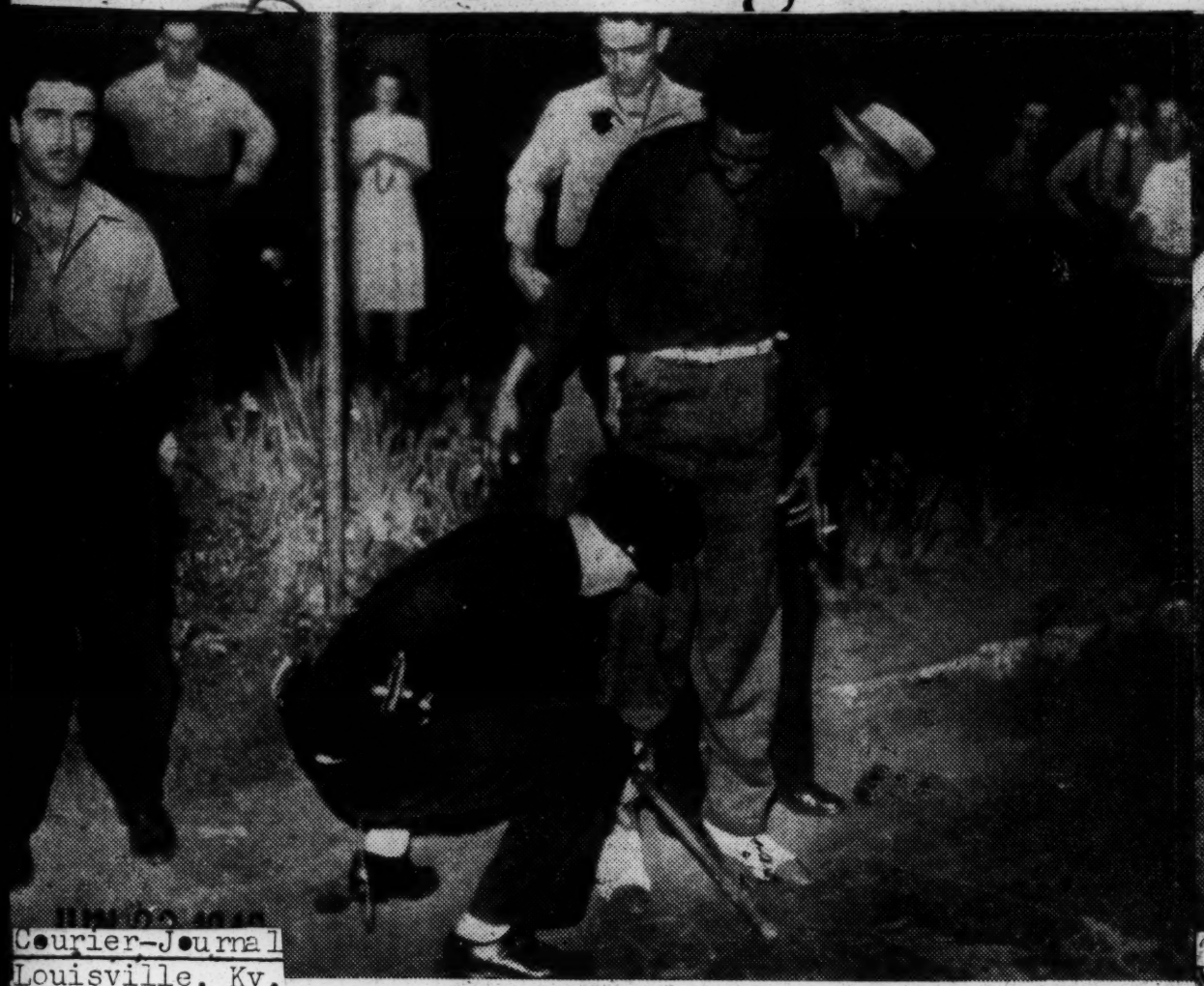
groes during the riot and permitted white mobs to attack colored people at will.

Analyzing the committee's anti-Negro report, Mr. White says in part:

"Violence of whites against Negroes is dismissed summarily in a short paragraph, despite the fact it is asserted this violence extended over a period of twenty

"Problems springing from racial tensions are not to be solved by such white-washing as that indulged in by the

Governor Orders Out State Police As Race Rioting Flares In Detroit



Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

AP Wirephoto.

POLICE SEARCH A NEGRO FOR WEAPONS after the outbreak of rioting between Negroes and whites in Detroit. Military rule was declared and more than 600 persons were arrested. A curfew was instituted.

Riot Deaths Reach 36

Courier-Journal

Detroit, July 1 (U.P.)—The death of Patrolman Lawrence A. Adams, 29, today boosted to thirty-six the death toll in race rioting here June 21. He died at Harper Hospital today of a back wound inflicted by a 28-year-old Negro who later was shot and killed by another officer.

Louisville, Ky.



AP Wirephoto.

WIDESPREAD RACE RIOTING flickered and flared in Detroit yesterday with some fatalities and numerous injuries. Sailors riding in jeeps are here shown patroling the area in which the rioting occurred. Military police also were on duty.

White Artists 'Go To Bat' For Cause Of True Democracy

Pittsburgh, Courier

By BILLY ROWE
(Theatrical Editor)

NEW YORK, July 1—As if bearing out Cal Tinney's statement to The Courier—that there are a lot of white people on the side of the Negro—just about every member of 17 Broadway productions signed a telegram of protest that was sent to President Roosevelt regarding the awful race riot in Detroit last week.

The entertainers, who thus called attention to the basic principles of America and the cause for which the country is now engaged in a life and death struggle, asked that the Four Freedoms be given meaning in regards to all people.

ALL STARS

Among the signers are Paul Muni, Miriam Hopkins, Conrad Nagel, Bobby Clark, Gypsy Rose Lee, Georgia Sothern, Ralph Bellamy, Shirley Booth, Madge Evans, Raymond Edward Johnson, House Jameson, Milton Berle, Blanche Sweet, Virginia Gilmore, Anne MacMahon, Mary Rolfe, Alexander Kirkland, Alfred Drake, Betty Garde, Joseph Buloff, Howard da Silva, Tamara Geva, Elena Miramova, Ludmilla Toretzka and Dorothy Sarnhoff.

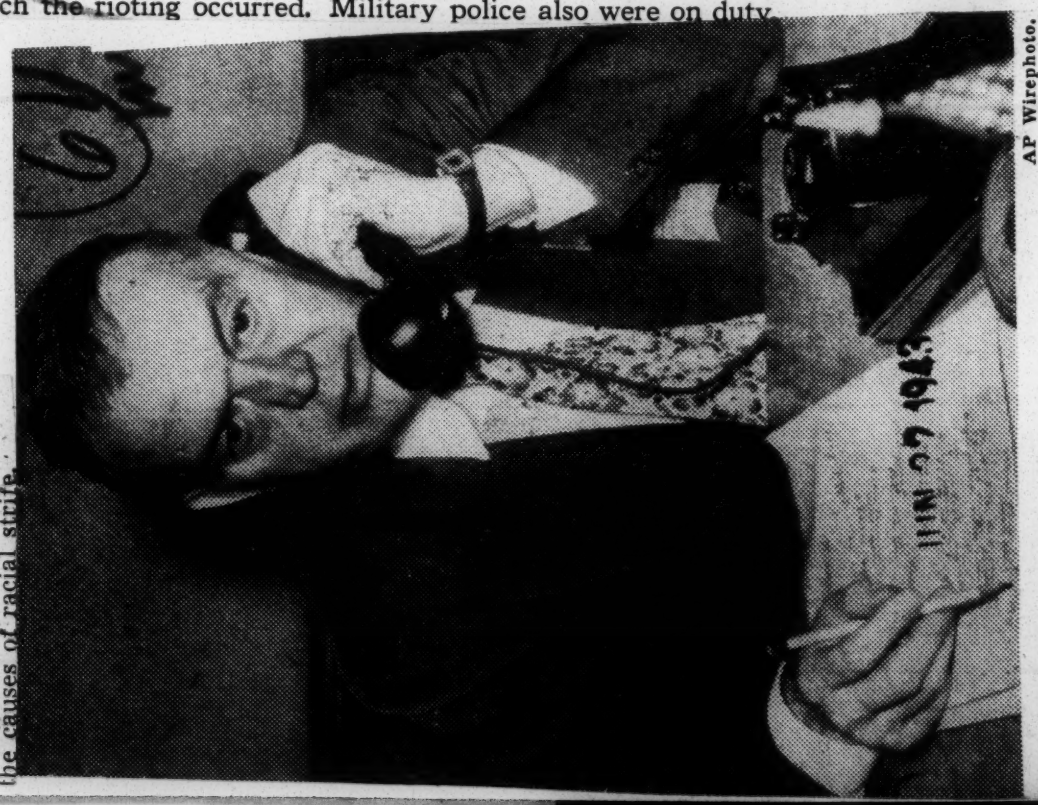
All the others of the telegram are white, connected with some of the biggest hits on Broadway and are among the best known artists in the country. Many of them are international favorites and some of them are Southern born, but fired with the principles that gave Lincoln greatness.

Detroit Riots Cost Nation 1,000,000 Man-Hours

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Washington, June 26 (U.P.)—Joseph D. Keenan, vice chairman of the War Production Board, said today that "the two days of senseless rioting" in Detroit "cost the nation a worse setback in the production of planes, tanks, material and equipment than it has suffered from all labor disputes in the entire nation in the first two months of this year."

Estimating the loss at more than 1,000,000 man-hours, he called on unions and management to join at once with other civic groups to seek out and correct the causes of racial strife.



AP Wirephoto.

GOV. HARRY F. KELLY ordered out Michigan state police and state troops to help the 5,500 members of Detroit's police force restore order among the rioters.

61-1943

Michigan

Detroit Mayor's Committee Asks Grand Jury Investigation of Riot

PM
New York, N. Y.

Survey Shows 13 Innocent Men Were Slain

Special Correspondence

DETROIT, July 22.—A committee appointed by Detroit's Mayor Jeffries to investigate the causes of the city's recent race riots today listed the circumstances surrounding 13 "unsolved" deaths on the day when mobs took over the city. The committee recommended creation of a special grand jury to seek evidence on the killings.

JUL 22 1943

"Gunshot wounds" and "stoning" were the only explanations offered thus far by the Detroit police, the committee said. All 13 were killed in public streets, without indication that they had taken part in the rioting. They were shot down or stoned merely because of color, not because anybody had any particular grudge against them. Six were white, seven black-skinned. Most of them were travelling to or from work in their cars.



Mayor Jeffries

JUL 22 1943

Simple Evidence

Here is the simple evidence of the insensate nature of mobs:

¶ Dr. Joseph Dehoratiis, 64 years old, white, who died in a hospital of a depressed skull fracture. He was found unconscious in his automobile.

JUL 22 1943

¶ John Frailich, 43, white, was dead on admission to hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. He was found in the street.

¶ James Kenney, 40, white, who died at hospital from injuries received when he was stoned while on his milk route.

¶ Frederick Lamion, 24, Negro, found dead in the street of gunshot wounds. An unidentified person fired at him from a passing automobile.

¶ Carrey Hackworth, 29, Negro, died from injuries received when the automobile in which she was a passenger was stoned.

¶ Edward Thompson, 41, white, died in hospital from injuries suffered when the auto in which he was riding was stoned.

¶ Frank Crossman, 68, white, died in hospital from injuries received when stoned in the street.

Shot by Motorist

¶ Mose Kiska, 58, Negro, died in hospital of gunshot wounds received when an unidentified man drove by and opened fire on him.

JUL 22 1943

¶ William McAdoo, 28, Negro, died in hospital of gunshot wounds suffered in street.

¶ Thomas Walker, 33, Negro, died in hospital of gunshot wounds received in an alley.

¶ Bishop Harris, 30, Negro, died in hospital. He told hospital attendants he was shot by a police officer.

¶ Charles Grundy, 20, Negro, died in hospital from gunshot wounds.

¶ John Holyak, 59, white, died in hospital from infection which developed from broken arm which he received after being stoned.

HATE STRIKES COST THREE MILLION HOURS

The Northwest—

DETROIT, Mich. — **Strikes in this area to prevent employment and upgrading of Negro workers have cost the war effort nearly three million man hours, the U. S. Department of Labor revealed this week.**

Enterprise

In a report supplied at the request of the NAACP, the Department of Labor stated that between the three-month period of March 1 through May 31, 101,955 man days of work in U. S. war plants had been lost to the enemy because of racial bigotry. The Department of Labor lists protests against the upgrading of Negro workers as the chief reason for these strikes.

Seattle,

Other reasons recorded are: hiring of colored workers and demand for separate sanitary facilities; placing of Negroes in production department; hiring of Negro plant guards; and refusal to work with Negro toolmakers.

AUG 7 1943

The War Production Board estimates that an additional one million man-hours were lost by the Detroit riot.

Washington

FEAR OF RACE STRIFE KEEPS TROOPS IN DETROIT OVER 4TH

See (M...
Chicago, Ill.

JUL 17 1943

By JOHN T. DAVID

DETROIT, July 8—(ANP)—With state and federal troops on hand at Belle Isle park and other places of amusement through the Fourth of July, Detroit spent one of the quietest holiday week-ends in its history, with no further indications of a repetition of the race riot which shocked the nation on June 21.

Because of widespread rumors to the effect that trouble would break out again on July 4, the recently appointed Interracial Fact-finding committee asked Gov. Harry F. Kelley to keep a contingent of the troops that have been patroling the streets since the day of the riot, either in town or in readiness in the event trouble broke out.

In asking for the troops, the committee pointed out that, despite the reports of Police Commissioner John Witherspoon and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, it would be chancing more killings to depend upon the Detroit police department to quell rioting. The armed troops will be gradually withdrawn from Detroit. Gov. Kelley said, but will stand in readiness from a point where they can reach the heart of the city within half an hour.

Other important developments in racial relations as a result of the riot which cost 25 Negroes and 9 white persons their lives, are as follows:

(1) The mayor's fact-finding committee of six Negroes and six whites—Mrs. Beulah Whitby, Louis E. Martin, editor, Michigan Chronicle; Rev. Charles A. Hill, chairman, Detroit Citizens committee; Rev. George W. Baber, pastor Ebenezer A.M.E. church; Walter Hardin, international chairman, UAW-CIO Interracial committee; W. H. Mahoney, deputy state labor commissioner (all colored) and William J. Norton, chairman of the committee; John Ballenger, Fred Butzel, Eugene Schaeffer, Mrs. Ardelia Starrett and Dr. Benjamin Bush (whites) outlined the following plan of action: (a) to hold conferences with the mayor and police commissioner and examine charges of police brutality during the rioting, (b. review the work of settlement houses and social agencies in the Detroit area and make recommendations for improvement and expansion, and (c) to hold conferences with local defense plants with known policies of discrimination or segregation to effect better understanding of the Negroes problem by these employers.

(2) Councilman George Edwards, R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO and the N.A.A.C.P. joined with the Citizen's committee in demanding an investigation of the conduct of the Detroit police force in the recent riot to determine (a) why police brutality was brought into play only in Negro communities; (b) to what extent, if any, did police incite whites to riot by refusing to protect Negroes and (c) how many Negroes were actually killed in cold blood by police, a charge that has been frequently made since the riot.

JUL 1 1943

Seek 200 Policemen

(3) A movement has been started to add at least 200 more Negroes to the Detroit police force after Mayor Jeffries said that "if you can get me the men I will see to it that they get the jobs" and Police Commissioner Witherspoon admitted that more Negroes are needed on the police force but stated that "I doubt if there are 200 Negroes in Detroit who can pass competitive examinations."

(4) Realizing that Mayor Jeffries has jeopardized all chances of being reelected mayor of Detroit, there is a widespread demand for UAW-CIO President R. J. Thomas to run for mayor. Thomas, however, has not indicated that he would run for the office.

(5) Rehabilitation of Negroes left homeless as a result of the riot and also business men in the Negro section is nearing completion, with the majority of the 250 Jewish-owned stores ready to open and Mayor Jeffries promising police protection against vandals and looters.

(6) The board of directors of the Metropolitan YMCA has protested the shooting of Julian Witherspoon who was shot in the back by state trooper Fred Anders Tuesday following the riot. Anders shot through the door of the St. Antoine Street branch YMCA wounding Witherspoon. Anders has been suspended from the state troops.

Law Suits Ready

(7) Several law suits, naming the city of Detroit and policemen as co-defendants, as an outgrowth of police treatment of Negroes during the riot, are expected to be filed this week. Attorneys here said that damage suits amounting to more than $1,000,000 are ready to be filed.

Harlem Hoodlums Have Riotous Demonstrations!

AUG 5 1943

SIX KILLED, 543 HURT, INCLUDING 44 POLICE,
500 JAILED, 5 MILLION DOLLARS
DAMAGE DONE!

"NOT A RACE RIOT"!

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

AUG 5 1943

...500 in jails, charged with looting and assault.
...He emphasized that the disturbances were not race rioting; that it was entirely an individual situation, caused by hoodlums and criminals.
...He pleaded with the Negroes of Harlem to cooperate with him and appeal to their leaders to end the rioting.
...New York, August 2.—Mayor La Guardia mobilized 6,000 policemen today's disorders which left six persons dead and a civilian committee of 1,500. All of those killed were Negroes. Of the injured more than 40 were slightly wounded a Negro soldier.

hurt seriously.

As further precaution, officials prohibited sale of liquor and ordered the closing of all taprooms in the section.

Property damage is expected to run into the millions, police say. The roving bands of Negroes, most of them in their late teens or early twenties, went from one store to another, smashing plate glass windows. The 70 year old white banker who actually lived in the Hyde Park hotel and whose $50 bail was furnished by J. H. Coleman, Negro, a professional bondsman.

A John Doe bench warrant was issued for the young Negro after he dashed from the courtroom, but early today he had not been found.

Morgan denied to Rudolph Dvorak, assistant operating director of the Chicago Crime commission (appointed by Judge Edelman to get the facts), that he took off his trousers. He said he removed his shirt but only rolled his slacks up to the knees; he had been ill, he said, needed sunshine, and did this to get as much as possible.

Morgan said he had done nothing wrong but was fearful the girls' charges and offered the policemen $5 each to let him go.

"Told Not to Appear"

This was refused, however, he said; he was taken to the station and there Coleman, the professional bondsman, appeared. He continued:

"I gave Coleman $20 at the station. He said he would arrange a $550 bond for me. He came to the hotel with me; I cashed a check for $50 more and gave him an additional $40—$60 in all. Then both he and a desk sergeant in the station told me I need not appear in court on any charge.'

Ketelhut had an excellent record on the park police. He is 44 years old, married, and has been on the force since June 24, 1924.

Morgan, who produced records he has never been arrested and does not drink, has been living in the Hyde Park hotel with his wife and daughter, Gwendolyn.—Chicago Daily."

AUG 5 1943

Broadway

The Worker

New York, N. Y.

Leaders Decry Riots

Sam Jaffe, stage and screen star who has an important role in "Stage Door Canteen" expressed horror at the Detroit anti-Negro riots and urged that the people "lift their voice" against the appearance of fascism in this country.

Said Mr. Jaffe:

"This certainly is not in keeping with the cause we are fighting for. We are playing right into the enemy's hands. The very idea of racial superiority is a fascist theory. A man like vice-president Wallace said that the rights of all nations and peoples should be respected all over the world. Then it certainly should be respected by the foremost champion of these rights — America.

"What we must do is lift our voice in protest. This is playing the fascist game and not the game of democracy. Thus we must lift our voice against the appearance of fascism in this country."

Philip Stevenson, playwright and co-author of "Counter-attack" said that the riots were an outgrowth of the Ku Klux Klan. "It was Hitler fighting on our streets in Detroit."

Said Mr. Stevenson:

"It was Hitler fighting on our streets in Detroit and no wonder," said Mr. Stevenson, "It is the outgrowth of the cross and flag of the Ku Klux Klan. We have been sowing this for years and now we are harvesting it. Remember the Black Legion situation there. Detroit is the concentration point for all fascists. We must not let this be repeated."

JUL 4 1943

JUL 4 1943

Labor Demands Jury Probe Of Detroit Riots

Pittsburgh Sta.

DETROIT, July 24 — (ANP)— Added impetus to demands for a grand jury investigation of causes and circumstances of the recent race riot, demands made by the Mayor's Interracial committee last week and which Prosecutor William E. Dowling said he would hesitate to heed unless the committee submits more "evidence," may come from organized labor, it was learned from reliable labor quarters this week.

A spokesman for the UAW-CIO said this week that the CIO is ready to push demands for a grand jury investigation, and also submit much of the evidence Prosecutor Dowling said he was in need of but, he added, the CIO is waiting for further petitions for an investigation to come from the community through civic groups and Negro leaders.

JUL 31 1943

Detroit Police on Spot In NAACP Riot Report

AUG 25 1943

AUG 25 1943

Daily Worker New York N.Y.

(By Federated Press)

DETROIT, Aug. 24.—The horrors of the June anti-Negro riots were told and documented here in findings of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which charged that "wilful inefficiency of the Detroit police in its handling of the riot is one of the most disgraceful episodes in American history."

And as the report was issued in a 36-page booklet, **What Caused the Detroit Riot,** the Detroit city council closed its eyes, sat on its hands and then announced Aug. 20 the riot in which 35 people were killed and hundred injured was a "closed incident."

AUG 25 1943

In doing so, the council voted down a plea by Mayor Edward Jeffries for creating a special one-man jury to investigate the causes of the riot and fix criminal responsibility for the number slain. The council had decided, it said that enough investigating had already been done by the FBI, the local police and Governor Harry Kelly's committee, which blamed the outbreak on Negro demands for an end to race discrimination.

NO ACTION

The council action in itself further established NAACP findings that while little was done to quell the riot, still less has been done to punish those guilty.

"The faces of between 800 and 1,000 white rioters engaged in assaulting, knifing, kicking or otherwise violating the law against the persons of Negroes, or engaged in wilfull destruction of property, such as the overturning and burning of the automobiles of Negroes are clearly identifiable" from photographs taken by the Detroit Free Press, the report says, but "few if any of them have even been arrested."

Thurgood Marshall, special NAACP investigator, was in Detroit from June 24 to July 9. During that time he collected countless affidavits from Detroit citizens which, pieced together, tell a story of unbridled police brutality. Here is part of Marshall's account:

"The trouble reached riot proportions because the police of Detroit once again enforced the law under an unequal hand. They used 'persuasion' rather than firm action with white rioters while against Negroes they used the ultimate in force; nightsticks, revolver, riot guns, sub-machineguns and deer guns. As a result, 29 of the 35 persons killed were Negroes. Of the 29 Negroes killed, 17 were killed by police.

"It is true that some Negroes were looting stores on Hastings St. and were shot while committing these crimes. It is equally true that white persons were turning over and burning automobiles on Woodward Ave. This is arson. Others were beating Negroes with iron pipes, clubs and rocks. This is felonious assault. Several Negroes were stabbed. This is assault with intent to murder.

"All of these crimes are matters of record; many were committed in the presence of police officers, several on the pavement around the City Hall. Yet, the record remains: Negroes killed by police, 17; white persons killed by police, none. Eighty-five per cent of persons arrested were Negroes."

SOURCES OF UNREST

City officials had indications far in advance that the outbreak was on its way, the report said. During the 3-month period from March 1 to May 31, 1943, some 2,446,920 man-hours of war production were lost by stoppages caused by KKK'ers refusing to work with Negroes. Other factors leading to the riot, as outlined by NAACP Secretary Walter White, were:

(1) Influx of thousands of workers from the south, most of whom brought with them their hostility to Negroes; (2) crowded housing conditions, made worse by the stubborn opposition of the Detroit Real Estate Association to public housing projects (Detroit's 200,000 Negroes are packed into two segregated areas, covering about 90 square blocks); (3) organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, the National Workers' League and the Black Legion which have been allowed to spread their anti-Negro, anti-Semitic propaganda; (4) the timorousness, political ambitions and inefficiency of the Detroit administration and law enforcing agencies.

The NAACP program calls for a grand jury investigation of the Detroit police department, an increased number of Negro policemen and reparations for the loss of life, limb and property during the outbreak. Its long-range proposals include better housing and recreation facilities, education and a coordinated inter-racial labor commission composed of AFL, CIO and independent union representatives.

AUG 25 1943

2 ADMIT KILLING NEGRO IN DETROIT RIOT DURING RIOTING

Chicago Tribune

Chicago, Illinois

JUL 31 1943

16 Year Old Fired Shot, Says Prosecutor.

Detroit, Mich., July 30 (AP).—Prosecutor William E. Dowling said today that two of four young white prisoners held by police have told him "a story of cold blooded murder" of a Negro during the race riots here June 21.

Confessions of Aldo Trani, 16, and Armendo Mastantuano, 20, Dowling said, accounted for the slaying of Moses Kiska, 58 year old Negro who was shot as he waited for a street car on June 21.

Police today also held Leo Tipton, Negro, described by Dowling as a "key figure" in the riots. The prosecutor said Tipton seized a public address microphone at a gathering of 500 Negroes late the evening of June 20 and shouted: "Everybody come on, there is a riot at Belle isle and they have killed a colored lady and her baby." Tipton will be charged with inciting to riot, Dowling said.

Rumor Blamed for Riot.

Spread of this false rumor thru the Negro district, police have said, was largely responsible for swelling the rioting to proportions where it caused the death of 34 persons.

The Kiska slaying was one of 13 riot deaths listed as unsolved.

Dowling said this was the way he got the story from Trani and Mastantuano:

"Trani and Mastantuano were out waiting in the street car zone. Trani said he was going to 'give me' a Negro. Trani and Mastantuano were withheld continued questioning the others being held.

"They saw the two other youths, Kiska and another, walking out of the car and fired. They saw Kiska topple over. They drove and Mack and Obene streets they saw Kiska topple over. They drove and then separated."

"Mastantuano had a rifle. At one of their favorite hangouts, a pool room.

One Carries a Rifle.

The four of them formed a plan. Trani said they knew as 'Bob' Kiska and 'Blackie.' The four of them Formal charges against Trani and Mastantuano were withheld to 'go Dowling continued questioning the others being held.

Norman Thomas Has 'Answer' to Detroit 'Riot': U. S. War on Japan Is to Blame

The Daily Worke
New York, N. Y.
JUL 1 1943

The "Socialist" Call, organ o[f] the Norman Thomas "Socialists," has discovered a new reason for the Detroit riots against the Negro people.

"It's the government's war against Japan that inspired the riots."

After describing how American planes strafed and killed Japanese soldiers, the Call says:

"If white Americans are stirred up to kill colored peoples, some will start without military orders."

It goes on to say that there are a great many Southern whites in Detroit who have brought their prejudices with them.

"With the continual preaching of racial war by the government's propagandists," it continues **"the stage was all set for a terrible explosion."**

Note what's involved here.

First, it's not the pro-fascis enemies of the war effort who ar back of the riots, but those who ar promoting the war effort. Fascism is whitewashed by the CALL, and those fighting to destroy fascism are responsible.

MICHIGAN CIO

The position of the Call had its repercussions at the Michigan State CIO convention. The resolutions committee of the convention, controlled by a combination of Thomas "Socialists" and Trotzkyites, brought to the floor a resolution on the Detroit riots in which they made the amazing statement that we should not criticize Hitler for his race theories while events like last week's anti-Negro riots occur in America.

The implication is not Hitler's followers who are responsible for the riots but we, meaning the leadership of America.

Another echo of the Norman Thomas position that supporters of the war effort are responsible for the riots was the demand that "Communists" be blamed for them.

The second implication inherent in the CALL'S position is that the killing of Japanese soldiers in wartime is an atrocity.

To give point to its attitude on the question, the Call boxes a story from Newsweek about one of the American heroes in New Guinea



NORMAN THOMAS

whose "fighters and bombers ha killed hundreds of Japanese troop at Buna . . . and (gave the Japa nese) the merciless beating . . during the Battle of the Bismarc Sea."

AGREE WITH TOKIO

The Japanese call this hero "Th Murderer of Moresby," and th Call reprints the story to show what a ruthless bunch of "murderers" the American soldiers are.

If this isn't peddling enemy propaganda, we don't know the meaning of the term.

It's obvious that the CALL'S stuff is extremely dangerous. The Japanese are attempting to exploit the riots to build their own movement among the Negro people, basing themselves on the propaganda that Japan is the "champion of the colored races." The Call lends a helping hand.

This peculiar sympathy for the Japanese fascists is not confined to the Norman Thomas "Socialists."

A few months ago, City Councilman Louis Goldberg, head of the Social-Democratic Federation, had this to say about the execution of American airmen who were prisoners of the Japanese, at a meeting of his organization:

"The fliers were soldiers in uniform throwing bombs, and it is only natural that the Japanese should avenge it, but Alter and Ehrlich were innocent non-combatants."

They're against "hate campaigns" when directed at the Japanese fascists, these "Socialists." They confine their "hate campaigns" to the Soviet Union and the firmest supporters of the war effort in America.

Editorial Comment on Detroit Race Riot

JUL 3 1943 Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

Face Facts in Race Riots

(From the Philadelphia Inquirer)

Perhaps a larger number of colored policemen, working closely with white patrolmen, are needed on the Detroit force and on those of other cities with large colored populations. Needed also, in any community, is the assurance that the colored man will get a square deal and will not be knocked on the head and dragged off to the police station the minute trouble starts, just because of his color.

The strict preservation of law and order is the first requisite in preventing repetitions of the Detroit disorder. That means alert and efficient local police work. But over and beyond such measures of prevention must be honest, intelligent and democratic treatment of the whole race question, a treatment based not upon assumption of racial superiority, but on the God-given principle that "all men are created equal."

Before rushing out to save the world, let us begin to safeguard justice and true democracy at home.

Jim Crow Blamed

(From the Williamsport, Pa., Sun)

The significance of the Detroit situation, beyond its immediate seriousness as a tragedy and as evidence of a social situation at variance with American ideals, lies in the fact that it is not isolated in that community and that it appears to be the outgrowth of a long continued campaign for racial discrimination, which may be of enemy origin.

Discrimination

(From the N.Y. Post)

We don't know of any way to end race-rioting except to end discrimination against colored people.

Race-rioting is merely discrimination in its most acute form. It is the hot end-product of years of cold discrimination.

We say the problem has to be solved, and that it can be solved only in the way in which we are solving the problem of fascism in Europe, by force. We suggest:

1. An immediate investigation by the FBI, in Detroit, Beaumont, Mobile, El Paso and the other scenes of disorder, into possible axis instigation of these riots.

We say, make the hoodlums understand that they face a Federal rap.

The most outrageous legalistic howler we have ever heard is the smug theory that "no Federal issue' is involved in punishing the Detroit rioters. But there is an absenteeism today of 50 to 90 per cent among colored workers in Detroit's war plants. They are afraid to travel, to show themselves. Who will blame them? And isn't interference with the production of munitions a Federal issue? Are we going to put striking labor leaders in the Federal pen for "interfering with the production of munitions, and let rioting hoodlums off?

2. As the quickest, best way to—

MAKE IT A FEDERAL RAP

—we suggest immediate enactment of a National Service Act, under which all workers would be assigned to their tasks in the total war. Then let any man who dares to keep a colored man from his job understand that he is going to have a visit from Uncle Sam, for interfering with the operations of the statute.

We've often suggested a National Service Act to meet the strike issue. Notice how it meets the race issue, too. It fits the needs of total war. It is the answer to disrupters and wreckers of every kind.

Hill Billy Stuff

(From the Jackson, Miss., Daily News)

It is blood on your hands, Mrs. Roosevelt.

You have been personally proclaiming and practicing social equality at the White House and wherever you go, Mrs. Roosevelt.

In Detroit, a city noted for the growing impudence and insolence of its colored population, an attempt was made to put your preachments into practice, Mrs. Roosevelt.

Blood on your hand, Mrs. Roosevelt! And the damned spot won't wash out, either.

War Housing Needed

(From the Chicago Sun)

Certain practical steps can be taken to reduce some of the immediate causes of past rioting. To relieve overcrowding, both of white and colored workers, there must be as much new war housing as the needs of war industries permit. Labor unions and management must educate white war workers in the elements of racial democracy. Local police must be alert to quell any outcropping of violence at its inception. Federal and local investigators should discover to what extent riots may have been inspired by Ku Kluxers or other subversive agents.

Who Started It?

(From the Richmond News Leader)

Every American who has command of his intellectual faculties ought to know that the nation cannot take the colored youth out of the country, put it in the army, demand full service of every colored man in the name of patriotism, and then expect the colored man not to seek the economic justice, the fair play and the honorable opportunity for which he is supposed to fight.

These things can and will be his without rioting or uprising which, in the end, must make his plight worse instead of better.

[This Virginia editor has the strange notion that colored people started the Detroit riot.—ED.]

Hitlerism Triumphant

NEW YORK — (ANP)—"The spirit of Hitlerism has achieved a triumph on American soil and in this tragic outbreak has scored a victory against the forces of democracy," according to a resolution adopted Wednesday by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in the Hotel New Yorker.

Segregation at Fault

(From the Michigan Chronicle)

Race riots are the bitter fruit of racial segregation. Segregation

JUL 3 1943

Government Fell Down

(From the Chicago Daily News)

No matter how congestion and insignificant that racial difficulties have been most frequent in the plant in which he reported

(From Philadelphia Bulletin)

have an unthe occupation of a Federal housto the economic ing project by the colored citimade in this pe- zens for whom it was intended, loyment. If their Charles G. Ross, contributing industry brings- ported from Detroit that the reattack they are vived Ku Klux Klan was ominous- protection from ly active. The Klan, he said, was attempting to take over the power- ful United Automobile Workers' Union of the CIO. It is hardly a riot in any American city where police work was strictly local conditions, any government fit to govern can preserve order and punish law violators. So far as we know, there never

(From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

KKK Involved

Last year, after a

JUL 3 1943

Job for FBI

From the N.Y. Times)

There is a job for the FBI in Detroit. There is also a job for Congressional committee

Right to Protection

the quiet, fair-minded, undramatic things that stop race riots before lawless individuals or some other group with powers of subpoena and funds, patience and time to trace every underlying cause of this outbreak. The whole truth will help the well-wishing majority in Detroit and elsewhere to full protection of the American people and divided the American people as a result of that division each group thinks in terms of only its own interests and in the struggle for a fuller life, the separate groups inevitably clash.

The South Rejoices

(From Memphis Commercial Appeal)

Verily, it is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and the Detroit riots, deplorable as they are, will have one beneficial effect: the labor pirates who have been circulating in the Midsouth luring farm labor so badly needed for the nation's food and food production to the Northern industrial centers will find their work more difficult.

A Generality

(From the Raleigh, N.C., News and Observer)

Good Americans will make it their business to see to it that they are not only guiltless of any conduct which would impair relations between groups or races, but do everything in their power to discourage such conduct on the part of others.

JUL 3 1943

Here's a "We Can'ter"

(From the Chicago Tribune)

An important lesson can be drawn by the American people from this ugly incident. If we cannot maintain an enduring peace in this country between races whose members have lived in the same communities, recognizing the same laws and customs for many decades, what chance is there for an amicable future if America is tied in an organic union with other countries whose peoples know nothing about our language and our institutions?

The rash enthusiasts who are confident that Americans can work in unbroken friendship with Tartars, Bushmen, Chinese, and Hindus, have something to learn from the incidents in Detroit and Los Angeles.

The Worst Possible Choice

(From Newspaper PM)

We can think of no agency less competent to deal with the explosive issue of race relations than the irresponsible, headline-hunting Dies Committee.

No man is less fitted to head such an inquiry than Martin Dies—the poll-tax Congressman has spent six years serving as a transmission-belt for the native fascist front.

The picture of Martin Dies as promoter of tolerance is as grotesque as a "better race relations" campaign sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan or the Silver Shirts. Or a civil law-and-order program drafted by a lynch mob.—J. A. W.

Reward Offered For Rioters

Weekly Review Birmingham, Ala.

JUL 10 1943

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JUL 17 1943

Trying to Find a 'Scapegoat'

Detroit Daily Claims NAACP Inspired Riot

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

JUL 23 1943

By T. JOHN WOOD

DETROIT. — (ANP) — The name of the Rev. A. A. Lucas, pastor of Good Hope Baptist church, Houston, figured prominently in an open dispute between Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., and A. M. Smith, feature writer for the Detroit Daily News (white) after the news reporter last week alleged that the NAACP Emergency conference here early last month stirred up discontent which resulted in the recent race riot.

Rev. Lucas' name entered into the controversy after Walter White had protested to an article in which Smith stated that the conference "sowed seeds of violence in the hearts of youths, both Negro and white" and that these "seeds fell into the kind of soil in which violence and crime breed."

Smith, in his article, which was the first of a series on crime and juvenile delinquency, alleged that the June 3 to 6 conference was a "fighting" conference and as a result, many Negro and white youth, imbued with this fighting spirit, took part in the June 21 race war.

Quotes Rev. A. A. Lucas

Protesting the article and the accusation against the NAACP, White declared that the conference did not play any part in causing the riot. In defense of his statement, Smith then quoted the Rev. Lucas as having said "Down in our state of Texas we don't ask: we fight for what we want—and get it." Smith declared, in addition, that this was "one of the fightingest speeches I have ever heard."

In a further attempt to link the NAACP conference with the causes of the riot, Smith wrote "let it be recalled that nearly 50 per cent of those arrested in connection with the riots were under the age of 21 years.

Cites Law of Psychology

"To contend that a strictly militant convention, which ended with a mass meeting of 20,000 Negroes, had no influence on the fighting spirit of younger, irresponsible Negroes, is a denial of the laws of psychology, which are as certain as the law of gravity or the chemical law of explosion of powder when you touch a match to it."

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"I am certain that the fighting convention of the NAACP in Detroit made the Negro boys much readier to fight than they had been."

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The article alleged that the program of the league does not coincide with that of the NAACP and pointed out that "many members of the Urban league refuse to affiliate with the NAACP."

White Reporter Wrong

Although the feud between Walter White and the Detroit News reporter may be short lived, it is well to point out here that Rev. Lucas was misquoted by Smith. This reporter, who also covered every session of the NAACP confab, in glancing through notes taken at the religious panel, found the following quotation by the Rev. Lucas:

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"Down in my state of Texas, that is in Houston, the part where I come from, if you want anything bad enough to fight for it, you get it. We don't go around begging; we ask for what we can get without a fight, but there are some things Negroes are not going to get without fighting and fighting hard."

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PM
New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondence

AUG 13 1943

DETROIT, Aug. 13.—Two Negroes were under $10,000 bond today and being held for trial following a hearing before Recorder's Judge Joseph V. Brennan, charging them with inciting the race riot which resulted in the death of 35 persons.

The two are Leo Tipton, 35, dance hall employe who allegedly ran to a microphone in the hall on the night of June 20, and shouted that a Negro woman and her baby had been murdered by whites, and Harpan Morgan, 15.

Witnesses at the hearing yesterday testified that some 500 Negroes responded to Tipton's challenge to "avenge this atrocity." The witnesses added that the crowd then stormed out of the hall and raced to Belle Isle Park where rioting broke out.

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NAACP Report Hits Detroit Police Brutality In Riot

Daily World Atlanta, Georgia

AUG 2 1943

Prosecutor's Office Castigated In Recent Racial Disturbances

DETROIT—(ANP)—The NAACP, through Walter White, executive secretary, last week submitted the report of its Mayor Edward J. Jeffries a detailed statement of charges of acts by the police department and the city prosecutor's office and others in the race disturbance, that tied up war production here and took the lives of 34 persons, 25 of whom were Negroes. The statement charged the police force with enforcing the law with "an unequal

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"They used persuasion rather than firm action with white rioters," declared the NAACP, "while Negroes who have pleaded for a grand jury against Negroes they used the ultimate in force, night sticks, revolvers, riot guns, submachine guns and deer rifles.

"As a result 25 of the 34 persons killed were Negroes. Of the 25 Negroes killed, 17 were killed by policemen. Prosecu-

Witherspoon in defending Dowling's assertions produced records purporting to show that more than 25 Negroes involved in the riots were white, and that Negroes were responsible for only 10 per cent of the crime in the total population.

DETROIT, Oct. 29 (AP)—Leo Tipton and Charles Lyons, Negroes, convicted a week ago on charges of rioting in racial disorders here in June, were sentenced in Recorder's Court today to from four to five years' imprisonment each.

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The union leader said that the intolerance of the prosecutor was the most serious occurred since the racial debacle itself.

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TIMES

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Each for June Disorder

R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (CIO) [illegible] blasted the remarks of Dowling and Witherspoon as did various members of the interracial board [illegible] and their prominent Negro ad-

61-1943

Michigan

Detroit Police Unable to Explain 14 of 34 Deaths in Race Rioting

PM
New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondence

DETROIT, July 17.—The Detroit police and the Wayne County (Mich.) prosecuting attorney's office are unable to "account" for fourteen deaths that occurred in Detroit's race rioting of June 21.

Checking up on the outbreak's aftermath, the final count reveals that either 34 or 35 persons were killed. Of the 34, 25 were colored, the others white. The 35th death was of a Negro whose body was taken out of the Detroit River a few days after the riot. It cannot be determined, the police say, whether he was thrown in the water by mobsters or drowned through other circumstances.

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The fact that fourteen deaths cannot be "accounted for" is keeping alive demands for convening of a Special Grand Jury to probe deeper into the actual incidents of the rioting, and to press for apprehension of guilty persons.

City Councilman George Edwards, Laborite, has taken the position that "fourteen killings in an American city cannot be permitted to go unpunished and the incident called closed."

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These figures are challenged by Negro groups. It is undoubtedly a fact that a large number of persons who suffered injury were afraid to go to hospitals lest they be involved in responsibility for the rioting or because they feared further mistreatment. The courts have worked steadily to dispose of some 1800 arrests made during the rioting. Approximately 1100 were found guilty or are awaiting trial; 700 cases were dismissed. Through the intercession of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People and the Wolverine Bar Association, an organization of Negro lawyers, free legal defense is being supplied many of the Negroes arrested.

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There has been no tangible development of plans to remedy the bad social conditions which provided the tinder for the riots. These causes, it is generally agreed, are lack of adequate parks and recreation facilities for Negro and white, congested housing, refusal of white communities to accept either Negro tenants or Negro housing projects, and an inadequate number of Negro policemen.

Major Jeffries has appointed a bi-racial committee to seek Government funds for recreation, park and housing developments. The Committee has not yet reported. The Police Department has said that it is ready to hire 300 Negroes who can qualify as policemen, but no aggressive recruiting steps have been taken.

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"We are right back where we were before the riots. Everybody seems to know what caused it, but nothing is being done about it. The Mayor's Committee is moving slowly, and the Mayor is not prodding them."

RACE AMITY PLEA ISSUED BY NEILSON

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

138 Eminent Americans Sign Call to Nation to Avert Riots Such as That in Detroit

AID TO ENEMIES IS FEARED

Creation of an Atmosphere in Which Disorders Cannot Occur Is Stressed

An appeal to the nation to create an atmosphere in which there can be no race riots such as that in Detroit was made public yesterday, signed by 138 eminent Americans from all walks of life. The appeal was released by Dr. William Allan Neilson, president-emeritus of Smith College.

The appeal was as follows:

"Every American who loves our nation and respects the principles upon which it was founded must have been shocked and dismayed by the recent race riot in Detroit, Mich.

"The shock was all the greater because our country is now in the midst of a struggle of life and death with the Axis powers, whose avowed object is the destruction of democracy and the enthronement of dictatorships run on the 'master race' theory.

"The Detroit riot embodied many of the practices which have been associated with Nazi Germany and her partner, the Japanese Empire. Here race was pitted against race. Bloodshed and destruction ruled one of our great cities for days. Hatred held sway. Not until Federal troops were brought in was order restored.

"We know that decent Americans abhor riots. We believe that our country, engaged in a war to uphold decency and humanity and democracy throughout the world, does not intend that these things shall be denied any American, Negro or white.

"In a statement on July 20, President Roosevelt declared that the recent outbreaks of violence 'endanger our national unity and comfort our enemies.' With this we wholly agree, and wish to add that not only do these riots injure America in its present fight for life, but threaten the very foundation of the Republic itself. Unchecked, they may well bring down in ruin our Constitution, our Bill of Rights and our Declaration of Independence, along with man's best hope for a government of freedom, dignity and security regardless of race, creed or color.

"We call, therefore, upon our President and our Governments, Federal, State and local, to use all wisdom to prevent a repetition of the horrors of Detroit elsewhere in our country. We call upon our people of every race, color, station and section to use all foresight in creating the atmosphere in which no battles between our people can occur."

Among the more prominent signers were:

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Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

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61-1943

Michigan

Detroit Police Unable to Explain 14 of 34 Deaths in Race Rioting

PM
New York, N. Y.
JUL 18 1943

Special Correspondence

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AUG 16 1943

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AUG 6 1943

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AUG 16 1943

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Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

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JUN 23 1943

In the meantime, Federal troops enforced calm in the riot-torn sections of Detroit where 28 persons were killed and 700 injured in racial fighting.

The soldiers are operating under the authority of a presidential proclamation and under orders from Tuesday to shoot to kill if necessary.

Twenty colored persons tried in Recorder's Court drew 90-day terms.

Because of the disturbance, an American League baseball game ed Monday was postponed.

Police said 25 of the dead were Negroes.

Following the riots which saw 1,300 persons. Twenty colored persons tried in Recorder's Court drew 90-day terms.

The 33 schools which were closed Monday were reopened Tuesday.

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Police at

Police said 85 per cent of the persons held in jail are Negroes.

Negro leaders issued appeals calling upon the rioters to stop fighting. Radio station WJBK dominated a twenty-minute broadcast Monday morning.

Police broke out late Sunday night following a widespread rumor that a colored woman and a child had been killed by whites at a beach. City officials doubted that this caused the riots, but were unable to advance any other theories.

Listed among the dead were:

Dr. Joseph Dehoratlus, white physician, 343 McDougall, who died of head injuries received when struck by a brick in his car at Henrie and Beaubien;

Carl Lincoln Singleton, 19, 968 E. Warren, shot by patrolmen Harold Toole and Vernon Hayden, when a mob reputedly attacked the officers with bricks and clubs;

William Hardges, 987 Division, struck by a brick in his car at Hastings and Division;

Robert Davis, 820 Euclid, also killed in the Hastings-Division fight;

Roy Jackson, 30, of 566 East Elizabeth, shot by police when alleged-ly found looting a store;

Anderson L. Ford, 45, of 930 Mack, dead on admission to Receiving Hospital with a bullet

wound in the stomach;

Samuel Johnston, who died in the Edith Thomas Hospital from a severed artery. Johnston was knocked through a plate glass window.

A man believed to be John Fralach, 43, of Romulus, was found dead by police at Warren and Brush. He had been shot once through the heart;

An unidentified Negro taken from 679 Medbury, shot through the chest;

Percy L. Peoples, 25, of 4803 Brush, shot while fleeing police when caught with three companions looting a grocery store at 230 E. Warren.

The riots stemmed from a trivial altercation at Belle Isle Sunday night, first centering in the Negro residential district and later spreading across Woodward Avenue and into downtown Detroit.

Tear gas was issued to scatter mobs in several sections of the city.

At least two beatings of Negroes by white men occurred within a short distance of the City Hall.

START FROM TRIVIAL HAPPENING

A related incident which occurred at the Fort Custer, Mich. Army post Monday night was released by Colonel Ralph Wiltamuth, post commander.

"Members of one of the Negro quartermaster battalions," the statement said, "attempted to secure arms and trucks at Fort Custer Monday night but were promptly arrested. The men had become restless over the disturbance in Detroit and wanted to go to assist their families. Prompt action by military authorities quickly restored order. Five men were confined in the post stockade awaiting investigation."

FDR ISSUES ORDER

President Roosevelt ordered that "all persons engaged in unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings" retire peacefully to their homes. He called on "all good citizens" to "uphold the laws and preserve the public peace."

At 2 a. m. (Eastern war time) Brig. General William Guthner, of the Sixth Service Command, charge of the troops, reported no further serious trouble.

General Guthner, assigned to Detroit by Maj. General H. S. Aurand, commanding officer of the Sixth Service Command, disclosed that more troops were being held in reserve and that soldier forces would be amplified Tuesday so that [illegible] could use public transportation lines. Fights on the street cars had become so extensive that some crewmen refused to work. Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, however, ordered all transport employes to return to the job Tuesday.

Federal troops came to the city upon Governor Kelly's request as rioting swelled to new peaks late Monday night, with both mob fights and individual battles so numerous that police were virtually helpless.

Two Negroes met death from police guns in a battle at an apartment hotel where, police said, Negro snipers were firing from upper windows. Gunfire and gas grenades from the police drove out all occupants.

In that fight Patrolman Lawrence Adams was wounded. Residents in neighboring buildings cowered behind locked and barricaded doors.

Two Cops Suspended In Detroit

Defender Chicago, Ill.

DETROIT—(ANP)—Two Negro patrolmen, Jesse Stewart and Williams, were suspended from the police department Tuesday on charges of cowardice and failure to perform their duty in an incident which Detective George Harmon of the special investigation squad claims started off the Detroit race riot of June 21.

The two cops are said to have been present in a Negro clubroom when a false alarm sent a mob to the Belle Isle municipal park on the eve of the riot to avenge an unfounded report that a Negro woman and her child had been thrown from a bridge into the Detroit river and drowned. It was on the basis of this testimony by Detective Harmon that Asst. Prosecutor Edward A. Ellsarelli asked the suspensions of the patrolmen.

The two men are both former university athletes. Stewart, a University of Michigan graduate, has been on the police force since December, 1940, and Williams, a New York University graduate, joined the force in January, 1942.

Both Stewart and Williams were members of the police track team. Stewart's police record lists eight citations and no demerits. Williams had received two citations and no demerits.

Following the suspension, a court ordered the men held under bonds of $5,000 and two sureties each as material witnesses in the pending trial of Leo Tipton, who is charged with inciting to riot by means of the night club announcement.

PROBE OF DETROIT POLIC

Guardian Boston, Mass

DETROIT, Mich. — The NAACP was promptly on the job in Detroit. The largest local chapter is in Detroit and its officials and personnel were literally under fire on Monday, June 21. Mrs. Daisy Lampkin, field secretary, and Miss Lucile Black of the New York office staff who were there conducting a membership campaign, risked injury making their way to safety through flying bricks and broken glass and gangs of hoodlums. Walter White flew from New York to Detroit at the peak of the rioting June 21 and conferred immediately with city and state officials, police and army heads and with newspapers. Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel conferred personally with Attorney General Biddle in Washington and then flew to Detroit where he is now organizing legal aid for the victims of the riot. Detroit NAACP officials, including local lawyers, are hard at work on the biggest job of its kind since 1918.

A state or a joint Federal and state investigation of the Detroit Police Department and of the administration of Mayor Edward J. Jeffries was asked of Governor Harry S. Kelly by a representative group of Detroit citizens this week at a conference arranged by the NAACP.

"There is overwhelming evidence that the riot could have been stopped at its inception Sunday night had the police wanted to stop it," the delegation declared. "So inefficient is the police force and so many of its members are from the deep South with all the race prejudices of the Ku Klux Klan that the trouble may break out again as soon as the troops leave" was the blunt appraisal given the Governor.

Among the other issues discussed with the Governor were the wanton shooting by State Policeman Ted Anders of Julian Witherspoon, 26-year-old medical student in the St. Antoine Y. M. C. A. June 22, the alleged looting of homes and apartments of colored persons by state policemen, the critical food situation in the colored areas on the east and north side, the wholly disproportionate arrests and convictions of alleged colored rioters in contrast with white rioters, and the failure to use colored soldiers, state troopers and city police.

Investigation by the Federal government of the 'non-feasance, misfeasance and malfeasance" of the Detroit police and Mayor Jeffries was asked by the NAACP. "The riot could have been stopped Sunday night with the firm use of force including a few fire hoses had the olice of Detroit wanted it stopped," the Association declared. "Instead there is photographic and other evidence which is irrefutable that the police not only did nothing to prevent white rioters running wild but actually held colored victims while white hoodlums beat them.

A pathetic and unending stream of riot victims have thronged the Detroit NAACP Branch office here, overflowing frequently into the hallway and onto the steps. Affidavits and statements have been taken, the facts checked and steps taken to help bring peace back to the city. NAACP lawyers under the chairmanship of Willis M. Graves have appeared daily in court to defend victims of the rioting. The Association has repeatedly and sharply criticized the unseemly speed of arrests, trials and convictions of colored who were certainly not the originators or aggressors in the riots. Though the colored population is only about a tenth of Detroit's populace, 85 per cent of the more than 1300 arrested are colored and all of the 34 found guilty on Tuesday and the overwhelming majority of those on succeeding days were colored.

"At least one and possibly one or two others of the anti-colored, anti-labor, anti-Semitic outfits here were financed in part by Nazi Bund and Silver Shirt money,' White declared. 'But the participants in and instigators of this terrible thing are native-born American spreaders of racial hatred and discord, predomninantly southern white crackers who have poured into Detroit for the past twenty-five years and paricularly during the past fifteen months. Unbelievably bad housing and overcrowding of all Detroiters but particularly of colored, job discrimination, the spinelessness of Mayor Jeffries and the Detroit police department, and the indifference of Detroit's industrialists who were and are interested only in the size of the war profits they make, caused his horrible conflict.

"The bright spots of the sorry picture here are, first, that there has been not one case of friction in plants due to the attitude of R. J. Thomas and other leaders of the U. A. W.-C. I. O. whose eight-point program for correction of the evils from which the riot grew; second, the magnificent courage and fairness of the Detroit Free Press followed to a lesser degree by the News; the courage of Colonel George E. Strong of the Army Aircraft Procurement Division and of General Guthner and Colonel Krech who have restored order with impartiality; the activity of the Detroit Council of Churches under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Bush; and above all these, the fortitude of the colored community in the face of the most murderous assault any people have ever known in the United States.

Even as the riot went on the people of Detroit continued their annual membership campaign of the NAACP to reach to date more than 17,000 members and cash of more than $20,000 to show their realization of the need of a permanent organization to tackle these conditions."

White and Marshall announced also that they will remain in Detroit as long as their services are needed.

Alabama Strike Cost 563,208 Man Hours in Mobile Shipyard

DETROIT—Strikes in this area cost the war effort nearly 3 million man hours, the U. S. Department of Labor revealed this week

In a report supplied at the request of the NAACP, the Department of Labor stated that between days of work lost to the enemy because of racial bigotry. The Department lists protests against the hiring of Negro workers as the chief reason for these strikes.

Other reasons recorded are: hiring of Negroes in production of the three-month period of March 1, 1943 through May 31, 10,955 man-hours; and refusal to work with colored workers and demand separate sanitary facilities;

3,000,000 Hours Lost In Detroit Race Conflict

Amsterdam Star-News New York, N. Y.

61-1943

Michigan

DETROIT RIOT REPORT DESTROYS CONFIDENCE IN LAW, NAACP CLAIMS

AUG 17 1943

Daily World Atlanta, Georgia

NEW YORK — (SNS) — The report on the Detroit riot by Governor Harry F. Kelly's fact-finding commission "solves nothing, further embitters Negroes, and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities."

This was the comment of Walter White, NAACP secretary, upon reading the full text as published in Detroit dailies August 11.

The report blamed Negroes for the riot and praised the police, saying, "the ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators."

Two members of the governor's committee were Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling of Wayne county, (which includes Detroit), who made a statement several weeks ago blaming the NAACP by name for the riot, and Detroit Police Commissioner John [illegible] Witherspoon, whose police force killed 17 of the 25 dead Negroes, while permitting white mobs to roam at will and beat up Negroes, even those under the "protection" of the police.

The NAACP said Witherspoon's presence on the committee "is undoubtedly responsible for this whitewashing of the police force."

"Negroes," said the NAACP, "have asked nothing but simple justice and the report to the governor calls them agitators.

"The text of the report by the Fact-Finding committee is not really a finding of fact, but an attempt by law enforcement officials of Detroit and Wayne County to cover the defection and derelictions of the Detroit police by blaming Negroes for the riot.

"The accusations are directed against all types of Negroes, from teen-aged ruffians to Negro editors, civic leaders, and heads of local and national organizations.

"Fully one-third of the digested text as reported in the Detroit dailies, August 11, concerns itself with minutely detailed descriptions of what the report describes as 'disconnected incidents provoked by a group of Negroes.'

"Violence of whites against Negroes is dismissed summarily in a short paragraph, despite the fact it is asserted this violence extended over a period of twenty hours, from 4:00 a. m., June 21, until 11:00 p. m. that same day. During this period, more than 1,500 persons were arrested of whom 85 per cent were Negroes. Seventeen of the 25 slain Negroes were killed by police.

"This committee had before it abundant evidence, including a report from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of wholly unjustifiable killing and other violence by police. To ignore all of this and to conclude that 'the ordinary law enforcement agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators' is conclusive evidence of the bias which characterizes the report.

"This report solves nothing, further embitters Negroes and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities."

Detroit daily papers, as might be expected, gave much space to the report. The Hearst-owned TIMES, as usual, gave the Negroes the worst possible "slant" in handling the text. The report was in three parts, but the TIMES printed only Part I which dealt in greatest detail with fights between Negroes and whites at Belle Isle.

Part III, printed in part by the NEWS, blasts the Negro press, Negro leaders, and Negro organizations for "inspiring" the riot.

It quotes the complete text of the infamous article of Warren Brown in the January Readers DIGEST, "A Warning to the Negro Press," and charges the Michigan CHRONICLE, Detroit TRIBUNE, and Pittsburgh COURIER with being "true conterparts of the newspapers (sensational, hate-inspiring -Ed.) described by Dr. Brown."

Part III denounces the "victory at home and abroad" idea among Negroes. It names the NAACP and the March on Washington Movement, cites their aims and objectives and certain resolutions adopted at the Washington conference of the NAACP in Detroit June 5. It refers to the protests against the Red Cross jim crow blood banks as a probable incitement to riot.

Other members on the governor's committee were Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton and State Police Commissioner Oscar Olander.

Civil Rights Group Greets Arrest of Spies

AUG 28 1943

Daily Worker New York, N. Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Aug. 27. — The Civil Rights Federation of Michigan in a letter to the Justice Dept. has greeted the arrests of the six spies as a "welcome beginning toward ridding Detroit of the dangerous elements responsible for espionage and for the disruption of our war effort by ceaseless anti-democratic agitation and the fomenting of riots."

The letter made public Thursday evening stressed the need for a complete grand jury investigation of the forces responsible for the anti-Negro riots on June 21.

In relation to Dies, who was sharply rebuked by FBI Chief John S. Bugas, the Civil Rights Federation declared:

"It is singularly strange that Martin Dies, who now reveals that he knew of the link between Sage, the National Workers League and Dr. Thomas as far back as January of 1942, makes public this material 20 months later when the work of the FBI makes it dangerous for Dies longer to conceal it."

The Civil Rights Federation has been in the forefront demanding a thorough investigation of the Axis-inspired riots in Detroit. Many outstanding labor, professional, Negro, church and civic leaders had indorsed a call for the "United We Stand" Conference which is to be held at the Masonic Temple, Sunday, Sept. 12.

Link Nazi Spies To Detroit Riot

AUG 27 1943

Daily Worker New York, N.

DETROIT, Aug. 26. — Hitler's agents in the United States were yesterday directly linked to the bloody Detroit riot, the anti-Negro strikes in war plants and the rabid campaign against Communists.

These startling facts were disclosed in this big war production center when it became known that two of the persons arrested for espionage by the FBI on Wednesday were associated with the seditious National Workers' League.

Dr. Fred W. Thomas, arrested as a Nazi agent, was charged with being chief "angel" for the National Workers' League. Thomas tried to get Parker Sage, founder of the League, a job in the Ford River Rouge plant.

STOOGE EMPLOYED

The Daily Worker also learned that although Parker Sage was not employed at Ford's, one of his henchmen, Charles Dexter, whose job it is to conduct espionage in progressive and labor organizations, was presently employed at the River Rouge plant.

Mrs. Theresa Behrens, one of the six arrested, was also found to be a member of the National Workers' League. Her job, like Thomas', was to get information in war production for the Nazis.

Parker Sage, secretary of the National Workers' League and former organizer of the America First Committee, is now under indictment for partaking in the fascist-inspired Sojourner Truth riot on Feb. 28, 1942, in which many Negroes were seriously injured.

Recently he had worked at the U. S. Rubber Co., where an anti-Negro strike occurred and where a campaign against the Negro people has been making some progress.

PART OF NAZI PLAN

This infiltration of fascist agents in war plants is in accord with the Nazi plan to disrupt production as pointed out by John Roy Carlson in his sensational expose of fascist agents in the United States in "Under Cover."

Carlson credits Sage with saying: "You talk to the men every chance you get, in the washrooms, during working hours, while going home on the bus. One good nationalist can do a lot of good work, even in a large shop."

The Justice Department was in receipt of records yesterday which included a letter from Thomas to a Ford Motor Co. official asking for a job [illegible] read: "Any job at all for the men so that Mr. Sage can, without creating suspicion, gain the confidence of his fellow workers, will do.

From the files of the Sage outfit, a letter was obtained in which Sage was recommended for the job because he was dedicated to the task of fighting Communism. It was written by Charles W. Chill, secretary of the central committee of German-American societies to a Mr. R. Irwin at the Ford plant, calling upon the name of Dr. Thomas as reference.

"With Dr. Thomas, Mr. Sage belongs to a group of men in Detroit, who see the dangers of communism and are organizing to fight it."

DIES SLAPPED

Martin Dies who has carefully ignored the activities of the Nazi groups in the United States yesterday came forward [illegible] in an attempt to get some publicity. He could no longer maintain silence on the information on the National Workers League which has been in his files since January, 1942.

But the special agent in charge of the FBI in Michigan, John S. Bugas, sharply cracked down on Dies' attempt to corner the spotlight by stating that "The Dies Committee never gave us two cents worth of help on this case and we don't need any of its assistance."

He termed Dies' statement that his committee has aided in the exposure of the six Nazi agents "absolutely ludicrous and false."

Thomas has also been revealed to be a member of the German-American Bund and a close associate of Fritz Kuhn and John Sherber, fuehrer of the Detroit Bund. Known as "Tom" in mid-west Nazi circles, Mrs. Behrens used her contacts in the National Workers League to obtain information on vital production and techniques.

However the failure of the Justice Department to act in the case of open jury investigation of the riot was the failure of the Justice Department to act in the case of the 33 seditionists and the free-dom of action which Sage and other fascists still enjoy are a source of trepidation to many following the developments.

CONFIRMS WARNINGS

The startling exposure that Prosecutor William E. Dowling's report was a white-wash of subversive groups like these seditionists who are [illegible] the Negro or-ganizations, including the Communist Party, that the anti-Negro inspired riots of June 21, which took [illegible] by government sources it be-firmed leaders of many union, progressive and Negro [illegible] a toll of 35 lives, was instigated [illegible] came evident to many that further [illegible] and organized by the fifth column [illegible] arrests were to be expected.

Colored Blamed For Riot

Guard Boston, Mass. AUG 14 1943

FACTS DISTORTED, LEADERS SAY

DETROIT, Mich. Aug. 12 (Special)—In one of the most audacious pieces of misconstruction of fact in the past five decades, blame for the Detroit race riot was placed this week on the 24 dead colored victims and their quarter-million fellow race-members.

The astonishing report which presented the unique findings was delivered by the committee appointed by Michigan's governor for the purpose of making an investigation into the disastrous outbreak.

From beginning to end the report followed the obviously-biased "report" made earlier by Detroit's police prosecutor. Both the earlier report and the latest travesty on truth blamed, among other things, colored newspapers and leaders of the race for the feeling which culminated in the riot. The report of the governor's committee, however, went a step farther than the earlier hoax in claiming that there was absolutely no subversive or enemy influence responsible for the riot.

Like the prosecutor's document—accepted by the city's vacillating mayor and the city council—the committee's alleged findings ignored completely the bad housing, lack of recreation facilities, continued segregation and other major causes of the disturbance.

Far from taking the police of the city to task for their bungling of all preventive and curative methods and for the open police field day which made most of the riot victims targets of police officials, the committee's report actually praised these officers for some mythical heroism and efficiency.

Unanimous disgust was the first reaction expressed by colored leaders of the city and the many liberal and American whites who could be reached. Further action, it is expected, will be sought.

2 Negroes Found Guilty Of Being Principal

Age New York, N. Y.

Inciters Of Detroit Riot; Face 5 Year Terms

DETROIT, Mich.— Found guilty of being the principal inciters of Detroit's race riot of June 20-21, in which 25 Negroes and 9 white persons were killed ,two Negroes were remanded to the county jail without bail for sentence October 29th.

The men, Charles Lyons, 21, and Leo Tipton, 35, were found guilty on Friday of being the principal inciters of the riot. The case went to the Recorder's Court jury with a warning by Judge John J. Maher that they must decide "on the facts alone ,without hatred, animosity, fear or favor." After deliberating three and a half hours, the jury of eleven women and one man returned the verdict of guilty. Both men face maximum sentences of 5 years in prison.

In his closing argument, Edward A. Elsarelli, assistant prosecutor, described Lyons as "playing the role of a modern Paul Revere" in taking part in the Belle Isle fighting which was followed by the riot-ing. Tipton was accused of making a false announcement over a public address system in a Negro dance hall, the Forest Club, that a Negro woman and her child had been killed by white and thrown off the bridge at Belle Isle. Following this announcement, the prosecutor brought out, the crowd streamed from the dance hall and made for Belle Island; the rioting became general after that.

CONDEMN RACE ISSUES

DETROIT, Mich.— The Greater Detroit Inter-Racial Fellowship, in a statement Friday urged all candidates for public office to refrain from bringing racial issues into their campaign utterances.

The statement was delivered to the rival candidates for the mayoralty and to local newspapers.

"No authoritative decisions," the statement said, "has been made as to the basic causes of the June race riots.... We deplore the presumption of placing the blame on either of the races. It is unfortunate that the legitimate desire of the Negroes for adequate housing and better economic status should be misinterpreted as an issue in the campaign."

FBI Chief Lays Rioting At Door of "Hoodlums"

People's Voice New York, N. Y.

DETROIT—In this city where police were responsible for the majority of the deaths in the recent insurrection, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, placed the blame for outbreaks mushrooming throughout the country on the reckless depredations of 'teen-age "hoodlums" when he addressed the International Association of Chiefs of Police here Monday.

Only once or twice during his long address did the FBI chief touch on the real causes for race riots, to jimcro in the Army, to second class citizenship, etc., and then he brushed over them lightly. He based nearly his entire talk on the idea that "force must be met with force."

Fight Force With Force

He urged that "the protectors of law and order marshal in superior strength without delay and that they function for the good of all, with proper regard for the rights of all."

Although he made no direct reference to racial disturbances in any particular city, Hoover told police chiefs that in suppressing the outbreaks, enforcement officers "have the right to expect conditions will be recognized and corrected by civil authorities charged with such responsibilities."

He further stated that "when these outbursts occur, pitting race against race, creed against creed, every officer must recognize his responsibility and realize that the only intelligent course of action is to adopt vigorous, prompt and firm measures to restore the peace."

Expressing concern over the rising tide of juvenile delinquency throughout the country, the FBI chief said that "in reviewing further the trends for the past six months we find an 89 per cent increase in the arrests of girls for offenses against common decency."

Detroit Parley To Act on Spies

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Sept. 2.—The statewide conference called by the Civil Rights Federation for September 12 at the Masonic Temple to present the facts behind the Detroit anti-Negro insurrection assumed even greater importance following the arrests of several Nazi spies in this war center. Daily Worker

Under the slogan "United We Stand," the conference will discuss discrimination in housing, jobs, education, press, the armed forces and the police department. The other general subject of discussion will be the fifth column including the KKK, Gerald L. K. Smith, the National Workers League which has been directly implicated with the espionage ring, the United Sons of America and other subversive movements. New York, N. Y.

"This conference," announces the call, "must make clear the whole pattern of discrimination and segregation and their disastrous effects upon American life and a practical program adopted for their eradication. We must expose and prepare plans to destroy the fifth column, its agents and organizations, which fatten upon thec ontinued existence of race prejudice. . . ."

White Boy, 16, May Face Second Riot Death Trial

Defender Chicago, Ill.

DETROIT, Mich. — Recovery of a rifle allegedly used in the slaying of a 58-year-old colored man during the race riots of June 21, led police to believe they were in position this week to lay a second killing to Aldo Trani, 16, who with three hoodlum companions is facing trial on a charge of murder.

Officers turned the weapon over to ballistic experts after they determined that Trani and his associates had shot and killed Moses Kiska as he stood in a safety zone awaiting a street car at the corner of Chene and Mack streets. Under questioning, the youths admitted that the gun had been used to fire on other colored men in scattered sections of the Negro community.

Police are particularly concerned with solution of the slaying of Charles Grundy, who, like Kiska, was shot down without warning at the intersection of Dubois and Superior.

Fired At Several Negroes

Warrants charging first-degree murder were sought against Trani and his companions, who called themselves the "Moran Street Gang," when they told police they armed themselves and went in search of Negroes "to help out the whites." Trani confessed to being the "trigger man" of the gang and said he fired the shot which felled Kiska. They stated further that they had fired at several colored men in the vicinity of the Grundy slaying but did not know whether any had been struck.

Seeking to prosecute as quickly as possible and with a maximum of severity, the police announced an intention of asking for a waiver of jurisdiction. This would pave the way for the killer to be tried without the intervention of juvenile authorities.

Held along with Trani are Armendo Marstantuono, Anthony Saraceno and Anthony Cattone.

In his confession Trani is quoted as saying that he met with other members of the Moran Street gang on the night of June 21.

Wanted To Help

"The boys had come home from work and had eaten," he said. "We got into a car with Cattone at the wheel and began cruising around, looking for Negroes. We wanted to help the whites and took part in about a dozen fights before the killing."

Trani gave his age as 18 when he was arrested, police held him with other adult prisoners. Later his father appeared, demanding to know why a juvenile had been lodged in a cell at headquarters and producing a birth certificate which showed the youth was only 16.

Mastantuono and Saraceno have admitted they accompanied Trani on a drive for the avowed purpose of shooting Negroes. Cattone, although admitting it was his car which the youths used, has steadfastly denied that he was a member of the party.

61-1943

Michigan

Mayor Jeffries of Detroit

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Both Races Attack Motor City Executive for His Maladroitness in Handling Recent Riots; He Absolves Police Department of Any Criminal Brutality, and Blames Colored Leaders; Says He Supports Civil Rights Law Only Because It Is on the Books; Not So Sure About Advancement of Four Freedoms in Detroit



MAYOR EDWARD JEFFRIES

NEXT WEEK — Mr. Carter tells the inside story of Henry Ford's Detroit plant.

By MICHAEL CARTER

DETROIT.—Mayor Edward Jeffries of Detroit (Riot City), Michigan is incompetent to handle any serious case involving interracial relations.

He is so maladroit that he is attacked from both sides. The street fighting whites jibe him. The colored people don't trust him.

Jefferies has distorted the meaning of democracy. He interprets it to mean the inalienable right of a white man to deny equal living quarters to colored people.

Jefferies believes in strict zoning of colored residents. Jeffries believes that the entire responsibility of the riots is in Hastings Street.

He absolves his police force of any criminal brutality. "The policemen were the only people who were supposed to be armed. They used their arms as they saw fit."

Opposes Hush-Hush Policy

Jeffries's one good feature is this: he will talk to colored reporters about the riots. "Some schools of thought think that it should not be talked about, but I believe it should," he said. "I am not afraid of making public my opinions. Everything I do and say is public."

The mayor says that he is doing everything within his power to prevent the outbreak of another riot. He has concentrated his police force in colored neighborhoods. He has absolved whites of blame.

But by implication he admits that this is not enough. He anticipates another riot.

"The people who were here before the riots are still here," he declared. Many of them have been removed from circulation for varying periods of time—usually from 30 to 60 days—but they will be back again after they have completed their sentences."

Causes Don't Mater

The mayor says he doesn't care about how the riots started.

"I am not interested in the chronological order of events," he stated. "The only fundamental thing is that it happened. I am not interested in history except as a guide to the future.

"It is only when people begin to accuse and indict each other that the chronology of events becomes important." Then the mayor blamed a colored man who purportedly started the wild rumor that set off the riots.

Gloster Current, NAACP man in Detroit, wanted to know which group had been hurt most from the riot and had racial relations been worsened.

"That's very difficult to answer," the mayor said. "I presume that everybody was hurt, and that everybody in the community is more aware of the problems. You are asking me a question for a psychiatrist. I am a lawyer, Sir, not a doctor."

The Detroit executive punctuates every sentence with a hissing "Sir."

He does not feel that Detroit, or the nation as a whole "will get split up on this issue. Repercussions of anything that affects the general public are bound to have a deteriorating effect, but I cannot see a split or a block to the war effort."

Accuses Colored Leaders

The mayor called the riot a great program of propaganda. It was very badly handled, too."

He accused colored leaders of using riot propaganda to incense the race. He knew that the Japs and Germans were using it for their overseas broadcasts, and he felt that colored leaders had used the information about the riots in much the same way.

Life Magazine Rapped

Condemning LIFE and most magazines and newspapers that carried pictures about the riot Jeffries said:

Every picture that went out of this town showed white people beating colored ones. The simple reason for that was that no white reporter or photographer could get into the colored camp.

"As a result, the people in the other parts of the country got the wrong impression of the riots. They got a completely one-sided version."

George F. Addes, international secretary of the CIO, later told me that he had driven through Hastings Street, rescued colored people, and had not been bothered.

Other whites who went into the colored section reported similar treatment. However, there is some truth in the mayor's statement.

"More whites were injured than colored, yet no pitcures showed colored people beating whites," he declared.

Police Defended

On police brutality, he continued:

"I notice that hysteria was the order of the day, but the police were not brutal. They used the requisite amount of force to protect life and property.

"Detroit's daily press has been reporting a large number of interracial assaults in the streets. Usually these are individual affairs and have not spread yet to city-wide proportions."

Mayor Jeffries says that the newspapers are misinformed. "Our so-called post-riot crime wave does not exist," he declared. "On the Sunday following the riot we arrested fewer people than on any previous Sunday."

Douglas Martin, editor of the Detroit Free Press, a rather liberal paper, told me that he had noticed a sharp increase in interracial crime. Jeffries said, "Martin does not have the comparative figures."

After the rioting and looting, families in the looted neighborhoods found it difficult to buy food. Stocks in grocery stores had either been stolen or the stores were closed.

Mayor Jeffries said, "Colored people did not suffer more from the riots than whites. More colored people were killed (by policemen) but many more whites were injured.

"There was a slight shortage of food, but I doubt whether anyone went hungry. We had a good program of bombings and air attacks and we put it to work."

Who Was to Blame?

Then the mayor began to lay the blame and place things in a chronological order. The several attacks in the first twelve-hour period were started by colored people.

"No decent fellow would participate in street fighting unless attacked. Some of our best people were attacked by you people. Then came unprovoked attacks, too."

The mayor thinks that the riot was Detroit made and Detroit nurtured. He does not think that "outsiders" started it or carried the ball after the first blows were struck. The riot was Detroit's baby.

"We arrested only 1,800 people," he declared. "Our jails looked like a prison camp in Sicily. We had about 1,400 colored people, arrested for looting, and about 400 whites.

"From the records, these people appear to be natives. They are not outsiders, although they could have been."

Fascists Not Responsible

The mayor does not believe that local fascists started the riots either.

"The only incident of incitement I discovered," the mayor said, "was from the colored man who stood at the corner of Hastings and Forest on Sunday night at 11:30 and said that one of your people had been hurt on Belle Island."

He likened Detroit's race rioting to the demonstrations in Harlem. "La Guardia had his experts out here, I guess he learned about our methods."

La Guardia may have learned about Jeffries's methods, but he carefully avoided them. Jeffries's method was the way NOT to handle a riot.

No Social Unrest Seen

Sarcastically speaking of Harlem, Jeffries said, "Your statements and excuses are familiar. So were your pictures, looting and street fighting. I think the boys simply repeated themselves."

Jeffries has never been able to see a riot as an expression of social unrest, disillusionment in the treatment of colored workers and the apparently inapplicability of the four freedoms to colored people.

Jeffries sees rioting only as a chance for colored people to loot. He sees no deeper than a broken store window.

I asked the mayor why fire hoses had not been used to disperse the rioters.

"Fire hoses can be cut. Suppose we had used them and fires had been started? Our equipment would have been tied up, fires would have been raging and we would be in a worse fix."

Easier to Shoot

I spoke to several firemen about this. They said that it is easier to shoot than cut fire hoses. Police could shoot to disperse the rioters.

"Every general has to know how to use his reserves," he replied. "You lay yourself open to severe criticism if you err in your judgement.

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"I told the Mayor that this was jim crow. The Mayor answered, "Under your laws are jim crow. I think a man has a right to select his own neighbors."

The mayor also said that more right to deny colored people the housing had been built for colored people, in proportion to the population are vacant. He thinks they should all live in a certain zone.

Civil Rights Law

The mayor feels that the right to choose friends includes the right to choose where you build it," he added a denial of the civil rights bill. "Colored and whites live together which he must, by oath, support. "I support the civil rights law only because it is the law."

he replied. "I don't know whether I like it or not. I do not know whether I'd have supported had it come up during my administration."

Edward Jeffries is Mayor of Detroit. Detroit is a northern industrial city. It is a keystone of production in this war of rapid movement.

Detroit is helping, with its tanks and motor cars and trucks to move troops and supplies wherever the four freedoms are threatened.

Unfortunately the mayor, rightfully proud of Detroit's mechanical contributions to the war effort, is not so sure about the advancement of the four freedoms in his city.

Exercise of these freedoms by colored Detroiters may annoy some white people. He does not want to annoy white people with any old four freedoms.

Council Denies Damage Claims In Race Riots

Philadelphia Tribune

AUG 20 1943

Philadelphia, Pa.

DETROIT, Mich. — More than $500,000 in damage claims against the city, which East Side merchants said they suffered during the June 21 race riots, were denied by the City Council on Monday.

The Council acted on the City Attorney's finding that there was no liability under the city charter.

The East Side Merchants Association had asked the damages on grounds of "inadequate" police protection.

New Riot Threat Seen In Detroit

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

AUG 14 1943

DETROIT, Mich. — The threat of new racial outbreaks seized this city last week-end, and caused widespread activity on the part of Gov. Harry F. Kelly and city officials to avert a possible recurrence of the June 21, debacle.

Gov. Kelly, alarmed by the evidence of growing tension, hastened to obtain President Roosevelt's assistance that federal troops were available "at a moment's notice," to answer an emergency call to the city. Simultaneously, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries asked race leaders to appeal for unity, and local police moved to prosecute a white youth on a charge of murder in connection with the riot-slaying of a 58-year-old Negro.

Concern of the officials was aroused by a series of clashes involving white and colored citizens, none of which, however, were considered serious enough to be of riotous proportions. Although stressing that incidents had not reached any riot stage and were all scattered, police were disturbed by the fact that attacks were marked by the absence of apparent robbery motives.

Several white men and a few Negroes were treated for injuries they received in isolated fights, and a street-car conductor suffered stab wounds during an altercation with a colored passenger.

Distribute "Hate" Leaflets

While these were deemed unimportant, alarm was caused by the circulation of anti-Negro literature at the height of the trouble. Leaflets reprinting assertions of the rabid race-baiter, John L. Rankin, Democratic Congressional representative from Mississippi were obviously intended to inflame race-hatred at a most inopportune time for this city.

Typical of the venom spread in these leaflets is the following paragraph, an excerpt from one of them:

"When those communistic Jews—of whom the decent Jews are ashamed—go around here and hug and kiss these Negroes, dance with them, intermarry with them, and try to force their way into white restaurants, white hotels, and white picture shows, they are not deceiving any red blooded American and above all, they are not deceiving the men in our armed forces as to who is at the botttom of all this race trouble."

Observers here were amazed that such vicious literature was allowed to be disseminated so recently after the debacle here when tension is still high and animosity strong. These statements placed in the hands of hoodlum elements, it was felt, would increase ill will rather than help speed the city back to normalcy.

Responding to the plea of Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon, Dr. James J. McLendon, president of the NAACP, has written to every Negro pastor in Detroit asking cooperation in trying to curb lawlessness and violence.

AUG 14 1943

Can't Reach Hoodlums

"Detroit's Negro pastors have been making fervent appeals for law and order." Dr. McClendon said, "but the trouble is that such ruffians can't be reached through the churches."

He added that groups were being organized to go into the homes and talk over with the parents the need for keeping juveniles in check and that other Negro organizations were preparing pamphlets pointing out that lawless acts reflected on an entire people and were particularly dangerous in the wake of the recent race riots.

"We've got the same problem trying to reach the trouble-makers that there is with the bad white hoodlums," Dr. McClendon declared.

Dowling Admits Error

Dr. McClendon said he had written Police Commissioner Witherspoon that he had been informed that police were telling Negro people that they were not taking hoodlums to court because "the NAACP was running down to get them out."

"I wrote offering to help in any program to curb lawlessness," he said. "That letter was sent in on April 5, 1942, and was read before a meeting of inspectors and sergeants. However, no suggestions ever came from it. It is a mistake to assume that the NAACP has attempted or would attempt to get a criminal out of the just deserts of his crime."

Meanwhile, Prosecutor William E. Dowling admitted he had no evidence to support an indictment of the NAACP, and declared he would prosecute any police officer guilty of abusing Negro citizens. He pleaded for understanding of his position last week during an interview, stating:

"I was misquoted by the reporter who attended the conference in my office last Monday with the representatives of the mayor's committee. The reporter took no notes and I imagine he wrote his story from memory."

Pledges Action

Dowling said the only thing the NAACP had done in the Sojourner Truth riot was to raise money to defend these persons arrested. He added that charges made by the Redford Record recently that the organization was Communist-controlled had been investigated and found to be false.

The prosecutor, claiming he would never oppose a grand jury probe of the disorders despite allegations to the contrary, cited his record in office, pointing out that he was the first law enforcer to recommend a murder warrant for a policeman.

"All I want are the signed complaints and I will get the facts and see that the guilty parties are prosecuted," he assured. "I have a duty to perform and my only opposition to calling a grand jury is because it will not reveal the genesis of the trouble.

"We are investigating the immediate cause, and when my fact finding report to the governor is revealed, it will show that hoodlums, black and white, who had any part in this disgraceful riot will be smoked out."

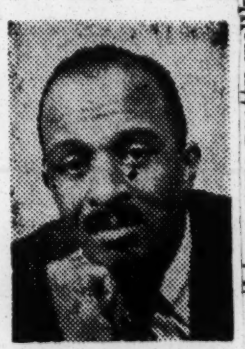
Dowling reported that he had sent his special investigator into the Bethune district to investigate charges that police officers were using high handed methods against Negroes there. He said that as a result the Sensation Bar, a popular rendezvous, was reopened after being closed by a squad. Facts uncovered by his aide, he said, did not support grounds for its closing and he added the officers responsible will be ordered to appear before the trial board.

A Second Look

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Virginia

THREE authentic reports to the general public have now come out of the Detroit riot of last June. There is one other report which should have a public hearing, and this is the report made to Detroit's Mayor Jeffries by his own specially-appointed investigators. The contrasts between this one we do not have and the three we have are probably great, for Jeffries' investigators were sent out not to get the facts—mountains of which the Mayor already had—but to color them. But all that aside: the three reports we do have are startling, revealing and pregnant with one unlearned lesson. They were prepared by men who, with the possible exception of one, had no axes to grind. The possible exception, Louis Martin, is a respected citizen of Detroit. Martin is editor of the Michigan Chronicle, one of the midwest's best weeklies, and a member of Mayor Jeffries' Interracial Committee. (This later distinction is against him, but his report was prepared and published in part before his appointment to the Interracial Committee.)



MR. REDDING

Earl Brown is an outstanding writer and journalist, one-time editorial staff member of the New York Amsterdam News, one-time feature writer for the New York Herald-Tribune, and now a staff member of the magazine Life.

Misters Lee and Harrey are both professors on the faculty of Wayne University's department of sociology. It seems safe to assume that these four men are honest and responsible.

REPORTS SIMILAR

Their reports bear all the similarities one would expect to find in reports dealing with the social phenomena of racial conflict: they all point out Detroit's inadequate housing, poor or non-existent recreational facilities, employment maladjustments, and the ignorance and brutality of the police.

Striking harder, all the reports agree that the mayor was not as mindful as he might have been, that the FBI ignored the situation after repeated warnings following the Sojourner Truth Housing project mess earlier in the year, and that Fascist tendencies among foreign-born and Southern-born whites ("105 per cent Americans from Tennessee and Mississippi") had been allowed to develop unchecked since early in the depression.

All these things were pretty well known. Coughlin and Winrod and Gerald L. K. Smith, could thrive as they have thrived for a dozen years, only in a soil so rankly rich with Fascist humus as Detroit's. But what was definitely not known and what these reports make clear is the fact that the rioters who were apparently in almost every instance either foreign-born or Southern-born whites were pretty obviously ignored: White people do not know this because they are not allowed to know it. In the southwest there are laws to prevent white men from knowing Indians and Mexicans. In the west there are laws to prevent white men from knowing Negroes.

The roots of a great many of our racial ills are embedded in these laws, and until something is done about them, nothing really lasting can be done about the race problem.

HOW PREVENTED WHO WHITE RIOTERS WERE

Now this seems pretty obvious and pretty much ignored: White people who have come to know Negroes under normal conditions of working and living simply do not riot against Negroes. Negroes who have come to know whites under normal conditions of working and living do not riot against whites. Knowledge—not book-learning, but the homely knowledge that comes from the equal meeting of men on the basis of simple equality in school, at work, in polling places, and in all such activities in which simple equality is the sine qua non—knowledge of this kind breeds understanding, and understanding is death to race hatred and race conflict.

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DETROIT, Mich. — The threat of new racial outbreaks seized this city last week-end, and caused widespread activity on the part of Gov. Harry F. Kelly and city officials to avert a possible recurrence of the June 21, debacle.

Gov. Kelly, alarmed by the evidence of growing tension, hastened to obtain President Roosevelt's assistance that federal troops were available "at a moment's notice," to answer an emergency call to the city. Simultaneously, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries asked race leaders to appeal for unity, and local police moved to prosecute a white youth on a charge of murder in connection with the riot-slaying of a 58-year-old Negro.

Concern of the officials was aroused by a series of clashes involving white and colored citizens, one of which, however, were considered serious enough to be of grave proportions. Although pressing that incidents had reached any riot stage and were scattered, police were disturbed by the fact that attacks were marked by the absence of apparent robbery motives.

Several white men and a few Negroes were treated for injuries they received in isolated fights, and a street-car conductor suffered stab wounds during an altercation with a colored passenger.

Distribute "Hate" Leaflets

While these were deemed unimportant, alarm was caused by the circulation of anti-Negro literature at the height of the trouble. Leaflets reprinting assertions of the rabid race-baiter, John L. Rankin, Democratic Congressional representative from Mississippi were obviously intended to inflame race-hatred at a most inopportune time for this city.

Typical of the venom spread in these leaflets is the following paragraph, an excerpt from one of them:

"When those communistic Jews —of whom the decent Jews are ashamed—go around here and hug and kiss these Negroes, dance with them, intermarry with them, and try to force their way into white restaurants, white hotels, and white picture shows, they are not deceiving any red blooded American and above all, they are not deceiving the men in our armed forces as to who is at the botttom of all this race trouble."

Observers here were amazed that such vicious literature was allowed to be disseminated so recently after the debacle here when tension is still high and animosity strong. These statements placed in the hands of hoodlum elements, it was felt, would increase ill will rather than help speed the city back to normalcy.

Responding to the plea of Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon, Dr. James J. McLendon, president of the NAACP, has written to every Negro pastor in Detroit asking cooperation in trying to curb lawlessness and violence.

Can't Reach Hoodlums

"Detroit's Negro pastors have been making fervent appeals for law and order." Dr. McClendon said, "but the trouble is that such ruffians can't be reached through the churches."

He added that groups were being organized to go into the homes and talk over with the parents the need for keeping juveniles in check and that other Negro organizations were preparing pamphlets pointing out that lawless acts reflected on an entire people and were particularly dangerous in the wake of the recent race riots.

"We've got the same problem trying to reach the trouble-makers that there is with the bad white hoodlums," Dr. McClendon declared.

Dowling Admits Error

Dr. McClendon said he had written Police Commissioner Witherspoon that he had been informed that police were telling Negro people that they were not taking hoodlums to court because "the NAACP was running down to get them out."

"I wrote offering to help in any program to curb lawlessness," he said. "That letter was sent in on April 5, 1942, and was read before a meeting of inspectors and sergeants. However, no suggestions ever came from it. It is a mistake to assume that the NAACP has attempted or would attempt to get a criminal out of the just deserts of his crime."

Meanwhile, Prosecutor William E. Dowling admitted he had no evidence to support an indictment of the NAACP, and declared he would prosecute any police officer guilty of abusing Negro citizens. He pleaded for understanding of his position last week during an interview, stating:

"I was misquoted by the reporter who attended the conference in my office last Monday with the representatives of the mayor's committee. The reporter took no notes and I imagine he wrote his story from memory."

Pledges Action

Dowling said the only thing the NAACP had done in the Sojourner Truth riot was to raise money to defend these persons arrested. He added that charges made by the Redford Record recently that the organization was Communist-controlled had been investigated and found to be false.

The prosecutor, claiming he would never oppose a grand jury probe of the disorders despite allegations to the contrary, cited his record in office, pointing out that he was the first law enforcer to recommend a murder warrant for a policeman.

"All I want are the signed complaints and I will get the facts and see that the guilty parties are prosecuted," he assured. "I have a duty to perform and my only opposition to calling a grand jury is because it will not reveal the genesis of the trouble.

"We are investigating the immediate cause, and when my fact finding report to the governor is revealed, it will show that hoodlums, black and white, who had any part in this disgraceful riot will be smoked out."

Dowling reported that he had sent his special investigator into the Bethune district to investigate charges that police officers were using high handed methods against Negroes there. He said that as a result the Sensation Bar, a popular rendezvous, was reopened after being closed by a squad. Facts uncovered by his aide, he said, did not support grounds for its closing and he added the officers responsible will be ordered to appear before the trial board.

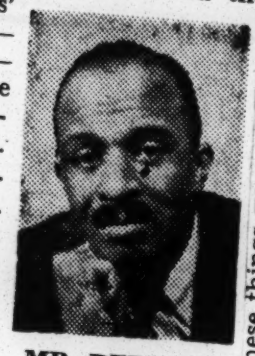
A Second Look

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Virginia

THREE authentic reports to the general public have now come out of the Detroit riot of last June. There is one other report which should have a public hearing, and this is the report made to Detroit's Mayor Jeffries by his own specially-appointed investigators. The contrasts between this one we do not have and the three we have are probably great, for Jeffries' investigators were sent out not to get the facts—mountains of which the Mayor already had—but to color them. But all that aside: the three reports we do have [illegible] be, revealing and pregnant [illegible] unlearned lesson. They were prepared by men who, with the possible exception of one, had no axes to grind. The possible exception, Louis Martin, is a respected citizen of Detroit. Martin is editor of the Michigan Chronicle, one of the midwest's best weeklies, and a member of Mayor Jeffries' Interracial Committee. (This later distinction is against him, but his report was prepared and published in part before his appointment to the Interracial Committee.)



MR. REDDING

Their reports bear all the similarities one would expect to find in reports dealing with the social phenomena of racial conflict: they all point out Detroit's inadequate housing, poor or non-existent recreational facilities, employment maladjustments, and the ignorance and brutality of the police.

Striking harder, all the reports agree that the mayor was not as mindful as he might have been, that the FBI ignored the situation after repeated warnings following the Sojourner Truth Housing

Earl Brown is an outstanding writer and journalist, one-time editorial staff member of the New York Amsterdam News, one-time feature writer for the New York Herald-Tribune, and now a staff member of the magazine Life. Misters Lee and [illegible]rey are both professors on the faculty of Wayne University's department of sociology. It seems safe to assume that these four men are honest and responsible.

REPORTS SIMILAR

project mess earlier in the year, and that Fascist tendencies among foreign-born and Southern-born whites ("105 per cent Americans from Tennessee and Mississippi") had been allowed to develop unchecked since early in the depression.

All these things were pretty well known and what to what Gerald L. K. Smith, Coughlin and Winrod and make gem-clear is the fact that these reports were not allowed to as they have thrived for a dozen prehended in almost every years, only in a soil so rankly rich stance were either for with Fascist humus as Detroit's migrants from

WHO WHITE RIOTERS WERE

Now the pretty obvious But what was definitely not much ignored: Wh

The roots of a great many of our racial ills are embedded in these laws, and until something is done about them, nothing really lasting can be done about the race problem.

Know Negroes.

are laws to prevent white men from knowing Negroes. And all over there ing Orientals.

In the west there are laws cans. to prevent white men from knowing Indians and Mexi-

Negroes who have come to know Negroes under normal conditions of working and living simply do not riot against Negroes. Negroes who have come to know whites under normal conditions of working and living do not riot against whites.

Knowledge—not book-learning, but the homely knowledge that comes from the equal meeting of men on the basis of simple equality in school, at work, in polling places, and in all such activities in which simple equality is the sine qua non—knowledge of this kind breeds understanding, and understanding is death to race hatred and race conflict.

HOW PREVENTED

Most people do not know this because they are not allowed to know it. In the southwest there are laws to prevent white men from knowing Indians and Mexicans. In the west there are laws to prevent white men from knowing Negroes. And all over there are laws to prevent white men from knowing Orientals. And until some-

Didn't Mean It, Says Detroit Prosecutor

Afro-American AUG 14 Baltimore, Md.

AUG 14 194

Denies Blaming NAACP for Riot or That He Opposes Jury Probe

DETROIT—(ANP)— Asserting he had no evidence to support an indictment of the NAACP and affirming that he would prosecute any police officer guilty of abusing colored citizens, Prosecutor William E. Dowling pleaded for understanding of his position last week during an interview.

"I was misquoted by the reporter who attended the conference in my office last Monday with the representatives of the mayor's committee," replied Dowling to charges he had blamed the NAACP for the race riots of July 21. "The reporter took no notes, and I imagine he wrote his story from memory.

Dowling said the only thing the NAACP had done was to raise money to defend persons arrested, adding that charges made by the Redford Record recently that the organization was communist-controlled had been investigated and found to be false.

Cites His Record

The prosecutor, declaring he would never oppose a grand jury probe of the disorders, despite allegations to the contrary, cited his record in office, pointing out that he was the first law enforcer to recommend a murder warrant for a policeman.

"All I want are the signed complaints and I will get the facts and see that the guilty parties are prosecuted," he said. "I have a duty to perform and my only opposition to calling a grand jury is because it will not reveal the genesis of the trouble."

Police Heads Warned

The prosecutor revealed he had called in Police Commissioner John Witherspoon and other officials of the department and informed them that such "unwarranted action" by their men will not be "tolerated."

"The NAACP, the colored press and R. J. Thomas of the CIO have denied my qualifications to conduct a grand jury. I have no objection to them asking any agency for a grand jury, since they have no faith in me.

"The only request I have to ask of colored leaders and the press is that they first report to me incidents relative to the rioting or undue police injustice. Stop protecting law violators. If I should fail to satisfy them, they can go to other higher agencies, or charge me with failing to perform my job."

Riot Hearings Set for Aug. 17

PM New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondence

DETROIT, Aug. 7.—Five youths will face examination Aug. 17 on first degree murder charges growing out of the recent race riots.

The five, charged with the murder of Morris Kiska, 50, Negro, shot while standing in a streetcar safety zone, are Aldo Trani, 16; Robert Cattone, 17; Ralph Tancredi, 20; Anthony Saraceno, 16, and Joseph Mastantuone, 20.

The youths were arraigned before Recorder's Judge J[illegible]nan and pleaded [illegible]nocent.

At the same time Leo Tipton, 35, Negro, charged with inciting an estimated 500 persons to violence on the night of rioting, was released under bond pending examination Aug. 12.

Detroit Court States Causes of City's Riot

People's Voice

"Basic tensions that caused the Detroit riots were:

"● anti-Negro prejudice

"● lack of territory into which Negroes could spread to secure adequate housing

"● economic insecurity.

"● inadequate outlook for recreation and social achievement

These were the findings announced this week by Dr. Lowell S. Selling, director the Detroit Recorder Court's psychiatric clinic, after a five-month study of the Detroit race riots at the suggestion of the DETROIT NEWS.

Liberals Warn Against New Race Riots And Urge Immediate U. S. Investigation Of Detroit

Age New York, N. Y.

Charging the Detroit police with lawlessness and condemning Special Prosecutor William Dowling's refusal to convene a grand jury to investigate the recent race riots, the Committee Against Race Discrimination of the American Civil Liberties Union, headed by Pearl S. Buck, and ten other national organizations on Thursday wired Attorney General Francis Biddle urging an immediate federal grand jury investigation of the Detroit situation.

The telegram, signed by groups devoted to race understanding, referred to newspaper reports that Prosecutor Dowling, supported by Police Commissioner Witherspoon of Detroit, placed the blame for the recent riots on the Negroes. This, the wire said, "has so greatly undermined the confidence of the people of Detroit and the nation that only a federal grand jury investigation of the Detroit riots will be effective."

Attorney General Biddle was told that unless the Detroit race situation is relieved and further friction prevented by the federal government, "serious race riots will break out in more than a dozen cities in the nation where riots are threatened at present."

The Civil Liberties Union committee and the other signers of the telegram asked the Attorney General for assurance that the Department of Justice will institute a federal grand jury investigation at once, "particularly in the light of the evidence of lawlessness on the part of the Detroit police."

The telegram was sent to Biddle following newspaper reports that Special Prosecutor Dowling of Detroit refused to grant the request of Mayor Edward J. Jeffries' Committee on Interracial Peace to convene a local grand jury to investigate the race riots.

Overrides Mayor's Plea for Grand Jury Investigation

PM New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondence

DETROIT, Aug. 20.—Although the Detroit Police Dept. admits that it has been unable to apprehend persons responsible for at least 10 deaths in the race riots of June 21 and 22, the Detroit City Council today decided to call the "incident" closed.

The council overrode a plea by Mayor Edward Jeffries and Councilman George Edwards that it request creation of a special one-man Grand Jury to probe into the causes of the riots as well as into criminal responsibility for the killings. Thirty-five persons in all were slain, but the police have "explanations," such as rioting, looting and alleged manslaughter, for all but ten.

Majority Satisfied

The majority of the City Council, rejecting the idea of a grand jury investigation, said they were satisfied that all possible investigating has been accomplished by the FBI, the local police and particularly by a committee of four created by Governor Harry Kelly.

The Governor's commission has placed blame for the outbreak on insistence of Negro leaders and the Negro press of an end to racial discrimination. It sidestepped any probing into basic causes by saying that was a matter for some other agency. It did not say what agency should do the job. Neither did the City Council today provide any suggestions in that respect.

Councilman Gus Dorais, former football coach and a Ford Motor Co. Councilman, and Billy Rogell, said the police have done everything possible and that any further investigation by a Grand Jury would merely stir up racial animosities.

Mayor's Stand

Mayor Jeffries reiterated his position that a grand jury should be convened if only to show Detroit and the Nation that every possible avenue for detecting causes and responsible persons has been explored.

"I have read the report of the Governor's Commission," said the Mayor, "and it shows that there was a pattern of militant aggressiveness. The [illegible] haven't changed [illegible]mind that a Grand Jury is necessary."

Spokesmen of Detroit's Negroes feel that the City Council has given way to political fear in deciding that the best way to deal with the nations worst riot is to forget all about it.

What Caused Detroit Riot

Afro-American Baltimore, Maryland

Committee Reports Uprising that Cost 34 Lives Was Not Planned or Premeditated; Smoldering Racial Tensions and Fanatic Rumors Cited

of Woman's Death Blamed for Tragedy

DETROIT — Smouldering Racial tension, inflamed by several disconnected outbreaks of violence and the circulation of a false rumor caused the June 21 riot here, according to Gov. Harry F. Kelly's fact-finding committee.

The committee's 9,000-word report, released Wednesday, credited theories that the riot was premeditated or inspired by subversive enemy influence, and placed the blame on some colored

Blames Press and Leaders

The colored press was accused of arousing racial tension by printing inflammatory articles. "Self - designated leaders" were accused of militantly rebelling against the police.

Two colored youths, determined to get even for having been ejected from another park by white, were blamed for inciting a fight at Belle Isle, the report pointed out that the fighting commenced, and that Tipton was held on a charge of inciting to riot.

It cited a statement in the Detroit Tribune, weekly newspaper, that whites have been committing acts of violence to a "clearly intended appeal to circulating, at a exact justice by violence," and miles from Belle continued:

"Such appeals unfortunately have been commonplace in the colored newspapers; can it be doubted that they played an important part in exciting the colored people to the violence which resulted in Detroit on June 21?

Leaders Chastised

"Some self-designated responsible colored leaders must share with the colored newspapers re

"Rumor Spreaders" Named

Leo Tipson was accused of causing the spread of rumors in other sections by circulating social club five miles from Belle Isle, the false report that whites had killed a woman and her child and thrown their bodies in the river.

The report pointed out that there and thrown their bodies in the Detroit River.

Two alleged instigators of the

Tribune Article Cited

sponsibility for the unfortunate attitude of certain colored elements.

Some of these leaders have themselves demonstrated an anti-social and factional outlook, which, if carried to their followers, would account for the militantly rebellious attitude of these elements," the report continued.

"Clearly there exists an obligation upon the leaders of all racial groups to face the ever-growing social problem. The problem can be solved only by determined, straight-forward sociological measures."

Attack Detroit Riot Report As Biased

DETROIT. — A withering fire by both Negro and white progressives was directed this week at the Detroit riot report by Governor F. Kelly's fact-finding commission which virtually blames the Negro race entirely for the outbreaks.

The report "solves nothing, further embitters Negroes, and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities."

This was the comment of Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary.

The report blamed Negroes for the riot and praised the police, saying, "the ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators."

Two members of the governor's committee were Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling of Wayne county (which includes Detroit) who made a statement several weeks ago blaming the N.A.A.C.P. by name for the riot, and Detroit Police Commissioner John E. Witherspoon, whose police force killed 17 of the 25 dead Negroes, while permitting white mobs to roam at will and beat up Negroes, even those under the "protection" of the police.

The N.A.A.C.P. said Witherspoon's presence on the committee "is undoubtedly responsible for this whitewashing of the police force."

'Negroes," said the N.A.A.C.P. "have asked nothing but simple justice and the report to the governor calls them agitators.

"The text of the report by the Fact Finding committee is not really a finding of fact, but an attempt by law enforcement officials of Detroit and Wayne county to cover the defection and derelictions of the Detroit police by blaming Negroes for the riot.

"The accusations are directed against all types of Negroes, from teen-aged ruffians to Negro editors, civic leaders, and heads of local and national organizations."

"The report is a slanderous provocation which will tend to increase racial misunderstanding," stated Dr. George Marshall, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. "Through attempting to throw the blame on the Negro community the authors of the report try to whitewash both their departments and the fifth column instigators of the riots.

"The authors of the report," Dr. Marshall pointed out, "are city and state officials, the ineffectual role of whose departments in preventing or promptly stopping the riots is well known. It is also common knowledge that many members of Commissioner Witherspoon's police force aided and abetted the vicious attacks on Negroes.

"The conclusions of this report must be firmly rejected.

"All the people in Detroit and throughout the nation devoted to winning of the war against the Axis and to the truth should protest this slander against the Negro people and demand that the fifth column instigators of the insurrection be ferreted out and brought to justice. They must also demand that all Klan and anti-Negro elements in Detroit's police force be eliminated. In addition thoroughgoing measures must be instituted to eliminate economic, social and political discrimination against the Negro people both at home and in the armed forces.

As a concrete first step to bring all seditionists and other fifth column elements to justice, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties joined three other national organizations ininitiating a nation-wide petition campaign to obtain two million signatures for this demand. The petition to President Roosevelt, urges that he "direct the Attorney-General to take immediate action to bring the 33 indicted seditionists to trial and to arrest and prosecute the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan, the America First Party, the National Workers League, and others whose names are known to the Justice Department, and to disband all pro-fascist groups in the United States." The other organizations participating in this campaign are the National Negro Congress, the International Labor Defense and the Council for Pan American Democracy.

Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, condemned the findings as "an unwarranted attack upon the Negro press and Negro organizations whose efforts to secure full participation of the Negro people in the war effort of our nation have been noteworthy and necessary."

The report stated:

"Perhaps most significant in precipitating the racial tension existing in Detroit is the positive exhortation by many so-called responsible Negro leaders to be 'militant' in the struggle for racial equality."

An excerpt from a story by a writer for the Detroit Tribune is cited in the paper and charged with "clearly" constituting "an appeal to extract 'justice' by violence." The report went on:

"Such appeals unfortunately have been commonplace in the Negro newspaper. Can it be doubted that they played an important part in exciting the Negro people to the violence which resulted in Detroit on June 21?

"Some self-designated responsible Negro leaders must share with the colored newspaper's responsibility for the unfortunate attitude of certain Negro elements."

Some Negro leaders, the report held, "have themselves demonstrated an anti-social and factional outlook, which, if carried to their followers, would account for the militantly rebellious attitude of these elements." It said that all race leaders must face the ever mounting social problem and expressed the hope it can be solved. "but only by determined, straight-forward, sociological measures."

Governor Kelly also received a report from Dr. C. F. Ramsey, director, state department of public welfare, on interviews and psychological studies made of 340 persons arrested.

Of the persons interviewed Ramsey said none were recent migrants to the city and 74 per cent have lived here for five years or more. Most of them held jobs with more than two-thirds in war plants with an average weekly wage of $54.

Almost 40 per cent of the prisoners had high school educations and 45 per cent were married, the report stated. About 25 per cent were illiterate and 13 per cent displayed emotional qualities or psychopathic tendencies. Eighteen per cent had been rejected for military service.

Meanwhile three Negroes accused in the Dowling report with spreading inflammatory rumors are either being held by police for trial or are under sentence. They are Aaron Fox, 17, and Charles Lyons, 20, charged with the actual starting of the riot "because they wanted to even the score for being ejected from Eastwood park five days before by a group of white youths." The other person is Leo Tipton, a check room attendant at the Forest club, a hot spot in "Paradise Valley," who allegedly seized a microphone and shouted to a group of dancers:

"This is Sgt. Fuller. There's a riot at Belle Isle. The whites have killed a colored lady and baby. Thrown them over the bridge. Everybody get their hat and coat and come on. There is free transportation outside."

The Sgt. Fuller referred to is a well known Negro policeman in the district. Gov. Kelly's committee, however, declared that "there is no suggestion that this police sergeant was in any way connected with Tipton's announcement."

Lyons is serving a term of two to five years in State prison for breaking and looting a Hastings street store the second night of the rioting. Fox is awaiting trial on a charge of aggravated assault. Tipton, according to attaches of the local jail, will be charged with inciting to riot.

Other flagrant injustices of the report are:

- one-third of the text reported in Detroit daily papers of August 11 is concerned with detailed descriptions of what the report terms "disconnected incidents provoked by a group of Negroes";
- violence of whites against Negroes is brushed off in one brief paragraph in spite of having lasted for twenty hours during the riot;
- the Committee had in its possession ample and extensive evidence of unjustified killings of Negroes by white police officers.

Members of the Committee, besides Police Commissioner Witherspoon, included Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling, Attorney General Herbert Rushton and State Police Commissioner Olander.

2, Charged with Rioting, Convicted

DETROIT — Leo Tipton and Charles Lyans face maximum sentences of five years in prison, following convictions Friday on charges of rioting in the June 20-21 racial clash.

Lyons, 20, was charged with taking part in the Belle Isle fighting, while 35-year-old Tipton was accused of making a false announcement over a public address system in a social club to the effect that a woman and her child had been killed on Belle Isle the night of June 20.

'Fact-Finding' Report on Detroit Riot Whitewashes Police; Blames Negroes

DETROIT.—A complete white-washing of the causes behind the recent race riots here was handed out last week by Governor F. Kelly's "fact-finding" committee, according to Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, "solves nothing, embitters Negroes and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in law enforcement authorities."

The report put the blame for the riot on Negroes and completely whitewashed the part the Detroit police played in aggravating charges of police brutality and laxity, stated, "the ordinary police department played. law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators."

POLICE HEAD A MEMBER

White attributed the fact that Police Commissioner John E. Witherspoon, whose police force killed 17 of the 25 dead Negroes, while permitting white mobs to roam at will and beat up Negroes, even those under the "protection" of the police, was a member of the committee, as aiding in the gloss-over of the real facts in the defection and derelictions of the Detroit police, particularly the part the police department played.

"Negroes have asked nothing but simple justice, but the report calls them 'agitators.' Negroes have been directed against all types of Negroes, from teen-age ruffians to Negro editors, civic leaders and heads of local and national organizations."

"the governor calls them 'agitators.' of Negroes from teen-age ruffians to Negro editors, civic leaders and heads of local and national organizations."

The text of the report of the Fact Finding Committee is not really a finding of fact, but an attempt by law enforcement officials of Detroit and Wayne County to cover the defection and derelictions of the Detroit police by blaming Negroes for the riot.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
AUG 21 1943

When Is A Fact Not A Fact?

Detroit Disgrace

Dear Editor:

I usually receive my PMs in bunches of 12 to 15 at a time. The last batch had your wonderful coverage of the Detroit Disgrace. If such horrible events do take place, thank God your paper tells the country why [illegible] Perhaps it wouldn't hurt to remind people that traitors are not new to this country, that Washington and Lincoln had them too.

As long as you'll lead us in fighting and exposing them—they can't win. New York, N. Y.

Somewhere Overseas CAPT. E.L.S.

61-1943

80 Oscoda Soldiers Ask Roosevelt to Arm Negro Military Police

AUG 6 1943

AUG 6 1943

AUG 6 1943

Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Cite Detroit Riot in Letter To President; Want Negro Troops Sent to Scene of Future Riots

OSCODA, Mich.—(ANP)—Stirred by the attitude of white soldiers and civilian police in the recent Detroit riots and the failure of authorities to arm and use Negro soldiers in quelling the disturbances, 80 Negro soldiers stationed at Oscoda Arm Air field Friday signed and sent a letter to President Roosevelt protesting these conditions and asking that they be corrected in the future.

AUG 6 1943

Cite Detroit Riot

The Detroit riots, they declared brought out in bold relief the helpless physical position of Negro civilians and soldiers. They charged that white police and white soldiers were largely responsible for much of the terrorism and murder of defenseless Negro citizens. They also charged from the testimony of eyewitnesses that, "The soldiers would allow white persons free passage over into the Negro community to make trouble but Negroes were not given corresponding protection. The soldiers assisted police in shooting all the windows out of buildings occupied by Negro tenants . . . They yelled all sorts of insults at the Negro women."

AUG 6 1943

These Negro soldiers, cognizant of the historic role they are called upon to play in the fight against fascism abroad but fearful of the evidence of its rising tide at home, further asserted, "The Detroit riots are an example of the helpless, defenseless and demoralizing plight of the American Negro civilian and soldier in this grave and decisive period in the nation's history. Nowhere in the nation can he, a soldier, protect himself from his enemies who are at the same time the enemies of justice and peace of the principles of our democracy."

AUG 6 1943

Arm M. P.'s

The specific requests made to the President were: "We ask that Negro soldiers in the armed services of the nation be immediately armed to the same extent and degree that white soldiers are armed; that Negro MP's be armed as are the white MP's; that during the time of riots, if the situation becomes serious enough that the army be summoned to assist or to take over; that a proportionate number of Negro soldiers (armed to the same degree as the white soldiers who are sent) be dispatched to the scene at once and not after the others have had all the honor of restoring peace. In the eyes of the enemy, an unarmed Negro soldier or an unprotected Negro civilian constitutes an invitation to attack just as an unarmed nation in the eyes of an aggressor nation invites attack."

AUG 6 194

The soldiers concluded, "Sir, as brave soldiers under the leadership of a wise and courageous commander, we feel that he will understand our wretched plight. We realize that even the President of the United States cannot be expected to accomplish everything in a day. But there are some things that must be done and the sooner they are done the better. We believe this merits your prompt and positive action for the good of America and the world. If sir, you should in your judgement consider our request to constitute an unwise and inexpedient course of action, we as an alternative ask that you consider the immediate release from service those of us who do not wish to continue in this demoralizing plight."

Michigan

I GIVE YOU MY WORD . . . by JOSEPH NORTH

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

HEIL DOWLING!

[Editor's Note: This column was in the printer's hands before the outbreak of disturbances in Harlem.]

AUG 10 1943

DID Prosecutor Dowling of Detroit wear the Grand Kleagle's robes the other day when he exploded with a bang heard in every one of the forty-eight states—and, tragically, by a billion colored men and women in Asia? Was the fiery cross burning when Mr. Dowling charged Negroes with responsibility for the Detroit insurrection? So colored mothers and fathers thought up the warfare that took the lives of twenty-eight of their sons in the thirty-six killed? Recall a man named Schickelgruber who said that a national minority in his land yearned for the screw and the rack? Is Mr. Dowling translating *Mein Kampf* for Detroit?

It seems to me every American worth his salt must talk up today. If Dowling gets away with it, we're in for another round of insurrections. R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers-CIO, knew what he was talking about when he said the prosecutor's statement was "the most serious incitation to race riots we have had since the riots themselves."

AUG 10 1943

It is never time for hysteria, but sound the alarm, citizens. We have them on the run in Europe and on all the battlefronts of the world—except here on the home front. President Roosevelt warned neutrals against harboring the Nazi breed, but we invite them to live on Woodward Avenue.

THOUGH Americans were shocked, they weren't stunned: I was glad indeed to see the declaration by eight hundred Americans. Their letter to President Roosevelt was as clear as red, white, and blue. They described the Hitler pattern in the fighting and dying of Detroit, of Beaumont, of Chester, of the army camps and environs. They talked straight, gave blame—and praise—where due. President Roosevelt had won the "love and respect of the whole American people" for standing by the federal principle of non-discrimination in war-industry. Our Commander-in-Chief recognized, too, they pointed out, the exemplary valor of our Negro troops through the award of the Navy Cross and other honors.

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Speak out to the people, the eight hundred urged; go on the radio, Mr. President, and tell America the words it wants to hear. And underscore those words with the vitally necessary directives to the various federal agencies under executive control. The eight hundred commended the Department of Justice for investigating all cases of lynching since the war, but they asked, and rightly, where are the convictions? Not one man has gone to jail for these atrocities. Not one. And what has happened to the indictments against pro-Nazi individuals in Detroit, over a year ago? Indictment without prosecution is a gun without a shell. Praise the Lord but pass the ammunition.

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AMMUNITION is the people's collective, aggressive will: the foregathered group, the insistent resolution, the tireless delegation, the inter-racial council. Ammunition is the removal of those underlying evils that give the Axis and pro-Axis plotters their basis to maneuver. Ammunition is better housing for Negroes; ammunition is the unswerving application of Executive Order 9346. Equal treatment of our Negro brothers in uniform is worth arsenals of shells. These will provide our thirteen million Negroes with unerring arms; it will give them—and us, their allies, their fellow-Americans—the full heart that accomplishes miracles.

I look to the whites to take the initiative; I expect the clear-thinking unit to slam the table and say "By God, we've had enough of this." I look to the Jews to step forward and say, "Your fate is mine. We stand together." It *has* happened; history is rich with examples. Read Councilman A. Clayton Powell's recent column in the *People's Voice*. He told of the three youthful Jewish immigrants who enlisted in John Brown's Abolitionist band back in 1855; and while Henry Ward Beecher was purchasing freedom for slaves from his pulpit in Brooklyn, "Morris Greenbaum bought fugitive slaves for freedom in Chicago." And Councilman Powell

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Pair Get 5 Years In Detroit Riot

NOV 6 1943

DETROIT, Mich.—(ANP)—Charles Lyons and Lee Tipton, convicted more than a week ago on charges of having spread rumors that precipitated the June 21 race riots here, were sentenced Friday in recorder's court to terms of four to five years each.

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I saw the blood-lust and the man-hunt. Any human in a black skin would do ——" who there for torture. The cry "There's a n—— the Pyrenees youths with revolvers, baseball bats, knives would mean an explosion of men and a grand scale, Americans were Negro, Spain; Dave Doran, Jew, and Oli world war slice of this country. Their unity would pull magnetically: other strata of the popu- lace would be drawn energetically into the combination. This unity, of course, is not to short-circuit labor's central responsibil- ity: it must be integrated with activities of all groups. But I can see the combination of Negro and Jew—both men- aced most immediately by Kluxism—oper- ation of Chester, pressed a lit cigarette to the victim's eye- democratic scaled smaller, but the same horrors were there. Kluxers up from the South to work in the shipyards inspired the outbreaks. I saw it. I saw in the Kluxism in Oliver Law, Jews and thirteen million Negroes stand- ing together constitute a mighty powerful big enough for the world to see it and I have seen it. I can see it and I have seen it in every day since the riots began. One of my early recollections was a scious, then "revived" by a Kluxer who was a spark plug in the de- unity of America's Jews and America's Negroes against the com- mon menace. Think that over: five million Negroes stand-Jew and Negro fighting Axis Kl Doran, Jew, and Oli Americans wh first blows in this w toward the lone Negro. I recall seeing a Negro youth flung to the ground, uncon- ting. One of my early recollectio town of Chester, by a Kluxer who was a Detroit

lids. I saw that. And this, too. The crowd swirled past my home which was in a mixed Jewish and Negro community. It pursued a Negro youngster, about my age, a school-mate of mine. Next thing I remember a little Jewish woman out in the street, flinging herself against the leader of the gang, a lanky man holding a smoking revolver. She held him while the hunted youth darted down an alley and escaped. The Kluxer put the revolver to her head, "If you wasn't a God-damn woman," he snarled, "I'd blow your brains out." Afterward, I remember some frightened neighbors saying to the little Jewish woman, "How did you dare do it? What would happen to your children if he pulled the trigger?" She shrugged her shoulders characteristically: "My children, another woman's children, what difference does it make? He was a child, and they were chasing him like an animal. It was as though they wanted to murder my own Jacob." This was etched in my memory: the little woman happened to be my mother. How profoundly true, her instincts. And I honor her, thinking of these things today. We will not settle with the Kluxers and the Hitler-lovers here until all American mothers and fathers feel like that little Jewish immigrant: "My children, another woman's children, what difference does it make?" This she knew profoundly: A Negro mother's child today, her child tomorrow. She had good reason to know. Her father, a stout, humble little cobbler lost his life in a Black Hundred pogrom in the Ukraine the year before. She was ready to lose her life to keep it from happening here. That spirit, and that spirit alone, will win for us today.

Making Bad Matters Worse

The names of one group of the Detroit rioters under arrest are significant. Negroes of that city have been saying that their worst enemies are the "Polacks." The fact that a group charged with mass capital crime have names of eastern European origin supports the charge and makes us doubt that peoples nurtured in the struggles characteristic of Europe are ready for democracy. At least they should be examined for fitness far more than has been done.

Germans like Schurz and Poles like Kosciusko have enriched our civilization. At the same time, we have taken to our bosom immigrants who came to get, with no thought of giving in return. It is up to us to see that America is the land of promise and not "a good thing."

Our democracy is entirely different from the way some nations live. For the vendetta of the Corsicans, we substitute the law. For the leadership the classes supply in many lands, we offer universal education. Our theory is that the individual helps himself. We fail to be completely successful with it, nevertheless we persist in following that principle. Into our country come some to whom this way of life is entirely foreign, and as the Detroit riot shows, their children educated in our schools are like them. The saying that it takes eight generations to make a gentleman seems to apply to American citizenship too.

It is not enough that failure to be good citizens is punished. Compulsion is not a sure foundation for a social system like ours. We have laws for the lawless, but a thousand contracts are kept for every one that is violated. Americans do right because we think right, not because there is a penalty if we do not. We prefer to do right and are not satisfied otherwise. The true American is aware that one disturber can destroy the peace of many. He does right in self-interest as well as from principle.

Because friction between white and black is one of the problems as old as the nation, our courts tend to leave it alone. But outsiders should not be free to bring in their version of race hate. We are part of the American family. So are the Kluxers. The two get along badly at times. Too bad! But no outsider ought to be admitted there to mistreat either of us.

We give our soldiers instructions not to speak to women, not to spit in front of a mosque, not to show race prejudice in Moslem lands and say that is common sense. We should drop race prejudice in our own land where it is not only common sense but the letter and spirit of the law.

Let federal courts which supervise new citizens, demand that they be free of race hate as the price of citizenship. But first the courts must bring their own practices into line with the freedom and equality of the constitution. A Pole who votes in his union against the admission of Negroes has the distinguished example of federal judges who hold courts without Negroes ever serving on their juries. Official America doing a Pontius Pilate about the Negro's rights, sets an example which our large immigrant population follows.

THE RIOT REPORT

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Michigan's Governor Harry B. Kelly's committee, created for the purpose of investigating the Detroit riots, has returned a verdict of "guilty" against the Negro people. Their crime is that they have demanded for their constitutional rights. They have castigated as "un-American" those who violated their rights.

Negro America sees in the violation of its rights a first step toward the violation of the rights of all minority groups in our country. Negro America arises in this period of war to the level of chief defender of democracy. It will not temporize, it will not be temporized, and it will be heard.

If this position, consistent as it is with the purposes for which this war is being fought, consistent as it is with the democratic traditions of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, is a crime, then it would seem that our country has gone a long way on the road to fascism.

We are in fundamental disagreement with Mr. Kelly's committee findings.

The crime was not in the demand of the Negro people and their white friends in the leadership of the CIO and AFL that democracy squarely meet the demands of war. The crime lies with the committee and with Prosecutor Dowling—men who knew that riots were being incited by the Klan and did nothing, men who are now fearful of exposing the Klan and the fifth column elements that incited the rioting and seem bent on the incitement of further violence. Its report can do that. The committee is fearful of bringing the true facts before the American public. Undoubtedly leading officials of the city and state governments in Detroit and Michigan would be implicated in the unholy, un-American deeds of the Klan if the facts were made known.

But this attempt at white washing only exposes to Negro and white America the dangerous conditions under the surface. All thought in America at this moment is being centered around one or the other of two poles. There are those for the win-the-war program, and there are those who want a negotiated peace, or even the defeat of our country by fascism. Neither group is fully grown, fully mature. Both exist in a state of flux.

Nevertheless, around either the one or the other every political, economic, or social action gravitates.

In the light of this statement, let us examine Detroit. In the action of Governor Kelly's committee can be seen an attempt to split the ranks of national unity, to isolate the Negro people, to incite race hatred against them, to create in their minds the impression that all of white America is their enemy, that the war is not their war. This is a move which supports reaction in this country, which supports the Klan, the fifth column, and gives aid and comfort to those misguided Negro leaders who think the Negro can fight his battle alone.

Herein lies the danger, the criminal carelessness of the Detroit report. The Detroit riots reflect the failure of America to stop the Klan, to defend democracy whenever or wherever reaction attacks any minority group. All who want to see can see this clearly.

To consciously work out a program of unity on the basis that the interest of any minority is the interest of every other minority and that neglect to defend the rights of one minority constitutes a failure to defend the best interests of our country as a whole is what the governor's committee should have reported.

This lesson of Detroit is to be learned. It flows directly out of everything that took place there immediately before and after the riots. With this lesson learned, the consolidation of America around the progressive win-the-war forces is possible.

If this lesson is not learned, then what national unity we have will disintegrate. We can then say we are well on our way to losing the peace if not the war.

ROGERS SAYS:

Pittsburgh Pa. Courier

Race Trouble Originates In the South and Seeps Like Poison Into the Norrh

BY J. A. ROGERS

JUL 3 1943

THIS is hardly a time to be cynical, but one could well say of the Detroit riots that it would not look like the good old U.S.A., if we did not have a race riot or two in wartime—a time when common sense calls for national unity. During the Spanish-American War, there were several. The month after this country had declared war against Germany in 1917, there was one of the worst riots in history, that of East St. Louis, followed a month later by another in Houston, Texas, in which the Negro soldiers shot up the white population after several of them had been attacked. As for this war, riots and disorders have been the order of the day.



Mr. Rogers

Nothing has been changed in the pattern of these riots. As usual, the rowdy whites who started the riot were aided by the police. Most of the Negroes killed in Detroit were shot down by officers of the so-called law. It may be true that some of the dead Negroes were looting white stores in the neighborhood, but what of the white looters and the white ruffians who were mobbing Negro women and children, not one of whom was killed. One picture actually showed members of the mob beating a Negro who was being held by a policeman.

CHICAGO JUDGE SET A GOOD PRECEDENT

Again, although the whites started the rioting, 85 per cent of those arrested were Negroes, and also the first 34 to be arraigned, all being sentenced to 90 days. In 1919, after the great Chicago riot, when only Negroes were brought before one Chicago judge, he immediately discharged them all. "Was this a race riot or were the Negroes only fighting among themselves?" he demanded. "I shall discharge every alleged Negro rioter you bring before me until you bring some white people, too."

AXIS agents are being blamed for these riots. That's true, except that so far as we know, they're not in Hitler's pay but in American pay. Numbers of them are right there in Congress. The New York Times suggests a Congressional committee "to trace every underlying cause of this outbreak." Well, Congress would have to begin with some of its own members.

SOUTH RESPONSIBLE FOR OUTBREAKS

Make no mistake, this trouble originates in the South, and the Southern politician who wants to perpetuate himself in office by riding in on color dissension is the ringleader. The North has been doing much to end color discrimination—of course, not as much as it ought to—but in the majority of Northern schools the two so-called races meet the same classes and get a chance to get better acquainted. The one-for-all street cars and other public accommodations in the North also make for the integration of American citizenship; while the whole policy of the South makes for the perpetuation of non-acquaintance, mistrust and ill-will.

IN VAIN the North tries to wipe out the evil in her own borders. The repeated influx of migrants from the South who come North determined to establish Southern jim crow, starts it up afresh all the time. It is like one who tries to clean up his back yard but no sooner is his work nearly done than his neighbor throws the contents of his slop-pail over the fence, and he has to start all over again. Southern jim crow is America's greatest evil; the great enemy, the great poisoner of American democracy.

ALMOST HOPELESS SITUATION

The situation seems hopeless because this false training is imbedded deep in the present Southern generations and seeps like poison from a sewer into the North. It will take generations to unteach jim crow in America. I know of only three groups—very small minorities—members of which you would not find in the Detroit or any other race riot. You would certainly find Republicans in the riot, and Democrats, and Catholics, and Methodists, and Baptists, but you certainly would not find any Socialists, or Communists, or B'hais. Why? Because their whole teaching is against jim crow.

THE Socialists and Communists place economics before so-called race; while the Bahai are most firm in teaching the essential oneness of mankind. Since the Civil War, only once was jim crow wiped out in the South and that was by fear of Northern bayonets. It seems that only force will be able to wipe it out again. Sooner or later, those Americans—regardless of color—who wish the survival of this nation, will have to take a determined stand against jim crow, even if it means bloodshed.

SOUTHERN CAMPS, POTENTIAL POWDER-KEG

Today, almost every Southern army camp is a potential powder-keg. Negroes are being trained there to be combative, to fight at the drop of a hat. At the same time they hear the pronouncements of world leaders—President Roosevelt, Sumner Wells, Wendell Willkie, Winston Churchill—asserting that this war is being fought for the liberation of all mankind. To ask anyone, regardless of color, in whom such a psychology is being built up, to submit tamely to insult is a paradox one would expect only of lunatics. You cannot train Negroes to kill white people (in Europe) and expect them to submit tamely to booting by white people (in America).

OF COURSE, this does not mean that Negroes should go around with a chip on their shoulders, and be ready to explode at everything. One can be courteous while firmly insistent, using violence only when it is offered first. The man who has right on his side can afford to be calm.

AXIS LEADERS LAUGH WITH GLEE

In the meantime, one effect of the Detroit pogrom is to further spell the doom of the white man in all the lands of the darker races. The news has again gone forth to Brazil, Mexico, the West Indies, to North Africa, the Gold Coast, India, Burma, Malaya, the Philippines. Japan is laughing aloud. For her, it is excellent war propaganda. More than ever now, she can convince Asiatics that the white man must never be permitted again to dominate Asia or must be driven out entirely.

WERE we in Japan's place, think how we could use propaganda of that sort! As for Hitler, he rubs his hands in glee. He uses it not only to prove the arch-hypocrisy of America, but it is a direct aid to him since it not only hinders the American war effort but lowers the morale of American soldiers on the fighting fronts.

JUL 3 1943

Sentences of Riot Sympathizers Cut

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

FORT CUSTER, Mich. — Sentences of three soldiers convicted for attempting to take army rifles and truck for use in the Detroit riot last June have been commuted, post headquarters announced Wednesday.

The soldiers, all dishonorably discharged, their original and reduced prison sentences are:

Pfc. Benjamin L. Johnson, Jr., of Orange, N.J., 15 to 8 years; S/Sgt. Lester L. Bowditch of Detroit, 20 to 10 years, and Pvt. Ivory Williams of Buechel, Ky., 18 to 8 years.

Detroit Seeks To Return To Normalcy After Riot

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

JUL 3 1943

DETROIT—Leading Negro organizations joined hands here this week in working to bring normalcy back to Detroit after last week's race riot and to aid victims of rioters.

JUL 3 1943

The Detroit Citizens' committee swung into action early to cope with situations arising as after-effects of the 30-hour bloody riot.

With the announcement that Detroit had been placed under martial law, the committee secured recognition from the city and military authorities as a cooperating agency for rehabilitation of riot victims, including merchants whose stores were damaged and looted by rioters. The Citizens' committee is headed by the Rev. Charles A. Hill who led the group during the Sojourner Truth Housing fight.

Plans Already Working

Initial plans of the committee, already being carried out, included arrangements with the local Office of Civilian Defense for the care of destitute families. Opening of shelters and centers for relief of riot victims was arranged with the city government providing relief funds through the OCD. From these centers food is issued daily to riot victims who, a few days after the riot, stood in line waiting for bread trucks and milk wagons.

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Only the few Negro stores in the colored districts escaped looters during the riot and these are inadequate to supply the thousands whose purchases were made at stores operated by white merchants. For the first few days after the riot it was difficult for Negro merchants to get supplies delivered because of wholesaler's fear of having their trucks hi-jacked.

Five information centers throughout the blighted areas, staffed by a corps of approximately 100 volunteer workers have been opened to keep Negroes victimized by rioting as to changes in martial law, securing food and shelter and the welfare of relatives arrested by police.

Defend Innocent Victims

A legal committee, which functioned in a similar capacity after the Sojourner Truth riot, has already affected the release of several men arrested during rioting but whose innocence has been proved. This committee will defend all innocent victims but will not come to the defense of those guilty of actual inciting to riot, vandalism or looting.

The legal committee is headed by Atty. C. Le Bron Simmons, president of the Detroit branch of the National Negro congress, and is aided by the Wolverine Bar association represented by Atty. Elvin Davenport; the Civil Rights federation, represented by Ernest Goodman and Jack Raskin and the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties.

The National Negro congress is collaborating with the legal committee as well as the general committee through its president, Edward Strong. Hundreds of dollars for the defense of innocent have already been raised and additional funds pledged.

Plans For Race Harmony

The naming of a committee of twenty-five persons to work for racial harmony in order to prevent a recurrence of riots in Detroit was called for at a meeting here at Redeemer Presbyterian church on Thursday.

Circuit Judge Ira W. Jayne and Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, addressed the mixed white and Negro group who agreed with the stand taken editorially by the Free Press, a Detroit daily, when that paper asked that Martin Dies "please stay away."

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover is acknowledged by all law enforcement authorities to be the most efficient police organization on earth," said the Free Press. "Its Detroit office has done a magnificent job. . . . Magnovox Dies says he has evidence that Japanese agents fomented the trouble in Detroit. There have never been over half a hundred Japanese in this community and the FBI has case histories of all of them and has been watching them. John Bugas, local agent, has publicly stated that they have taken no part in any local disturbance.

"This is no time in Detroit for blabmouthed emotionalism. . . . For the good of Detroit, the welfare of the nation, and the progress of war production we wish the Texan Don Quixote would play

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Jeffries was asked of Governor Harry S. Kelly by a representative group of Detroit citizens at a conference arranged by the NAACP.

"There is overwhelming evidence that the riot could have been stopped at its inception Sunday night had the police wanted to stop it," the delegation declared. "So inefficient is the police force and so many of its members are from the deep South with all the anti-Negro prejudices of the Ku Klux Klan that the trouble may break out all over again as soon as the troops leave," was the blunt appraisal given the governor.

Among the other immediate and long range issues discussed with the governor were the wanton shooting by State Policeman Ted Anders of Julian Witherspoon, 26-year-old medical student in the St. Antoine Y.M.C.A. June 22, the alleged looting of homes and apartment of Negroes by state policemen, the critical food situation in the Negro areas on the east and north side, the wholly disproportionate arrests and convictions of alleged Negro rioters in contrast with white rioters, and the failure to use Negro soldiers, state troopers and city police. Specific methods of attack on each of these problems were worked out by the conferees.

Confer With Governor

Judge Ira W. Jayne, presiding justice of the Wayne County Circuit court and N.A.A.C.P. vice president, had arranged a previous conference for himself and Walter White, NAACP executive secretary with the governor. At their suggestion, a representative group of Detroit Negroes were invited to the conference held Wednesday. They were Dr. James J. McClendon and Gloster Current, president and secretary respectively of the Detroit branch of the N.A.A.C.P.; Rev. Charles Hill, chairman of the Citizens committee; Mrs. Beulah Whitby of the Detroit O.C.D. and national president of the AKA; Charles Mahoney, member of the State Labor commission; Senator Charles Diggs, Louis E. Martin of the Michigan Chronicle; Mrs. J. E. McCall of the Detroit Tribune, and John R. Williams of the Pittsburgh Courier.

Investigation by the Federal government of the "non-feasance, misfeasance and mal-feasance" of the Detroit police and Mayor Jeffries was asked by the N.A.A.C.P.

"The riot could have been stopped Sunday night with the firm use of force including few fire hoses had the police force of Detroit wanted it stopped," the association declared. "Instead there is photographic and other evidence which is irrefutable that the police not only did nothing to prevent white rioters running wild but actually held Negro victims while white hoodlums beat them.

"Mayor Jeffries has been implored by white and Negro groups for more than a year to do his duty and check the vicious forces which infest Detroit but he has done nothing. The fifth column in Detroit has its headquarters in City Hall and police headquarters because it is weakness and prejudice there which has cost thirty-one lives, and destruction of property, tragic stoppage of the production of war supplies our fighting men overseas desperately need," the N.A.A.C.P. charged.

Aid To Victims

A pathetic and unending stream of riot victims have thronged the Detroit N.A.A.C.P. branch office here, overflowing frequently into the hallway and onto the steps.

N.A.A.C.P. lawyers under the chairmanship of Willis M. Graves have appeared daily in court to defend victims of the rioting. The association has repeatedly and sharply criticized the unseemly speed of arrests, trials and convictions of Negroes who were certainly not the originators or aggressors in the riots. Though the colored population is only about a tenth of Detroit's populace, 85 per cent of the more than 1200 arrested are Negroes and all of the 34 found guilty on Tuesday and the overwhelming majority of those on succeeding days were Negroes.

Throughout the week calls have poured in of attacks upon the persons and cars of Negroes in isolated white neighborhoods. These have been especially noticeable in cases of Negro workers at the Ford River Rouge plant and other war industries when Negroes attempted to return to work. Prompt action in each case led to a steady decline of such attacks.

JUL 3 1943

4 Negroes Held In Riot

Courier-Journal

Detroit, Sept. 13 (AP)—Three Negro men and one woman were held by police today in the investigation of an incident in the Negro East Side section early yesterday which brought out a riot squad. Louisville, Ky.

Officers used tear gas to scatter a crowd of 500 Negroes which had gathered at about 1 a.m. when two patrolmen were arresting a Negro on his wife's complaint that he had beaten her.

The patrolmen said the crowd surrounded their scout car. Their uniforms were torn, but neither officer was injured. Help came at their radioed request. Chambers and Ellis said one Negro climbed to the top of a parked automobile and tried to urge the crowd to violence. He was taken into custody along with the complaining wife, her husband and another man.

ROGERS SAYS:

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BY J. A. ROGERS

No Investigation Needed, 300 Years of Preaching Race Hate Cause Riots

AN INVESTIGATION into the causes of the Detroit race riot, of which there is much talk, seems to me about as necessary as one into why girls go wrong, or why we have corns and bunions, or why cats wail over the back fence at night, or any other age-old thing. Every American who has not been living away on some Robinson Crusoe island ought to know the cause of race riots by now. The answer is HATE; the hate that the exploiters of Negro labor and their henchmen have been building up against Negroes since 1630—300 years of preaching of race hate! The great marvel is not that there have been so many clashes, but that there have been so few. Such a tension has been built up between white and black over the centuries that anything can start a riot.



Mr. Rogers

In Detroit, it was the Sojourner Truth Homes built for Negroes and claimed by whites. In Los Angeles it was the zoot suit; and tomorrow, in any large American city, it might be someone stepping on someone else's toes.

JUL 10 1943

MARTIN DIES CALLS IT "CODDLING OF RACES"

Among those who plan to investigate in Detroit is, of all persons, Martin Dies, of "un-American activities" fame. This would make it all the more superfluous because riots based on color, instead of being "un-American" is as truly American as Plymouth Rock or the lingo of the Southern mountaineer. In no other part of the world—not even in barbarous South Africa—are there riots between whites and Negroes. What Poll-taxer Martin Dies would accomplish, however, would endear him all the more to the Fascist element in this country.

HE gives us a foretaste really when he starts out to blame the riot—according to an interview he gave the press—on the "coddling of races" by "politically-minded people in this country who ignore the vast differences between the protection and the coddling of a race."

SOUTHERNERS RAP OWI PAMPHLET

By this "coddling of race," he evidently means anything that tends to give Negroes equal opportunity, as the FEPC. Southern congressmen are particularly sore about the OWI publication, "Negroes and the War," which was published and distributed free in an effort to offset some of the centuries of anti-Negro propaganda.

FOR instance, this from Representative A. Leonard Allen (D.), of Alabama: "'Elmer Davis, instead of helping the war effort domestically, is hurting it. * * * His propaganda stuff has hurt the South. We in the South understand that problem and know best how to deal with it. We understand the psychology of the race problem. Davis had 2,500,000 copies of a certain pamphlet printed and sent everywhere. The pamphlet undertook to glorify one race in the war."

In other words, a good word, and a mild one at that, for the most caluminated portion of the population, "hurts the South."

JUL 10 1943

WRITER BLAMES SOUTHERNERS

Martin Dies has already wasted enough millions of taxpayers' money with his never-ending investigation into "un-American activities," therefore it is to be hoped that enough pressure will be brought against him to let him keep his nose out of the Detroit pie. We have had enough investigations into race riots for all the sociologists and legislators 'til kingdom come—the more so as they are all of the same pattern and nothing is ever done about them. There was an extended one into the Chicago riot of 1919; into the East St. Louis, and the Houston, and so on and on. As for the New York City riot of 1934, several sessions of which I attended, the findings were buried lest they start up another riot.

CERTAIN Northern States, especially New York, do try hard to build a unity of all American peoples, but they haven't a chance with the continued migration of Southern whites, who muddy the stream again as soon as it starts to run clear. A white minister, witness of the Detroit riot, wrote: "The majority of the rioters were obviously of the Southern migrant-worker group. Their speech, their dress, their attitude all betrayed their origin. They thoroughly enjoyed creating the havoc, which was undoubtedly one of the major victories for the Axis powers since the beginning of the war."

JUL 10 1943

N. Y. NEWSPAPER SPREADS HATE

I know of so many cases where Southerners in key positions in the North work hard to keep race prejudice alive. For instance, PM, New York daily, reported last week the case of the Review-Star of Rockville, New York suburb, which has been openly advocating lynching to end a non-existent crime wave. One editorial had the familiar, "N——s have got to be kept in their places." When the editor, James E. Stiles, was interviewed, it turned out that the writer of the inflammatory editorials was "Southern-bred Arthur E. Hodges," but, said Stiles "since I'm the editor, I have to take the responsibility."

MAYOR LaGUARDIA works very hard to prevent racial disturbances in New York City, but I am afraid that his efforts are in vain unless he could establish a quarantine against Dixie propaganda.

JUL 10 1943

MUST DRIVE OUT JIM CROWISM

We may have investigations from now until doomsday, but nothing will ever be accomplished until those Americans—North and South, white and Negro—unite and raise their voices loud enough to drown out the insidious propaganda of Jim Crow, which has been giving their country a bad name for the past 300 years.

Police Shoot Up Apartment; Use Gestapo Tactics

pittsburgh pa. courier

JUL 3 1943

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS
(Staff Correspondent)

DETROIT, July 1—In concrete illustration of how the local municipal police functioned last week in what happened at the corner of Vernor Highway and the Vernor Apartments located at the Brush streets and at the colored Young Men's Christian Association. As they spread located at Elizabeth and St. Antoine streets. One of the two persons had been killed there of the rooms. This apartment building, one of the few large apartment houses occupied by Negroes, was raid-ed by municipal officers and state motor police Tuesday evening because it was alleged that someone had shot out of one of the windows. Eighty-eight families live there. After the building was ma-

JUL 10 1943

ONLY DETROIT POLICE ENTERED

By the Heavily owned Detroit Press. Between the Times and the Detroit Free Press has been impartial. As stated in The Courier last week, it has refused to white-wash the situation. Photographs by police courageously using

The following is an affidavit which I signed on as I hing and robbing the building until the police officers finished a state Detroit Times, a syndicated Hearst, apartment d not permitted to go back into the building. Indeed an open fued has developed standing with up-raised owned newspaper, has been ac- the Brush street side of cused of aiding and comforting the ding for more than one hour we were searched but were which it has handled the situation. mitted to

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Michigan

To-Hell-With-Democracy Is Riot Theme; FDR Orders Troops In Detroit

People's Voice New York, N.Y.

JUN 26 1943

DETROIT—Ku kluxers, america firsters and hitler won an overwhelming fascist victory Sunday and Monday when they turned the United Nation's arsenal city into a scarred and bloody battlefield.

With the stench of hand-to-hand street fighting still clinging to its nostrils after 24 hours of the worst race rioting this country has witnessed since l'affaire Houston in World War I. Detroit awoke Tuesday morning to find:

- 24 of its citizens dead—3 white, 21 Negro, 16 of whom were killed by police in an alleged attempt to disperse crowds;
- 700 persons injured, many of them seriously;
- 600, mostly Negroes, jailed;
- jeeps, trucks and tanks manned by Federal troops swinging up the main thoroughfares as per Monday night's Presidential order;
- untold thousands of dollars of property wantonly destroyed;
- only persons going to and from war jobs allowed on the streets;
- bars, grills, restaurants, public places, including movies, closed.

FEDERAL TROOPS SENT

President Roosevelt sent federal troops here late Monday night following a telephone conference with Gov. Harry F. Kelly, who had ordered a modified form of military law, with state militia and deputized civilian police, over the city during the day. Declared the President:

"I do hereby command all persons engaged in unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes immediately and hereafter abandon said combinations and submit themselves to the laws and the constituted authorities of said state (Michigan)."

Gov. Kelly had declared a state of emergency Monday and a 10 pm curfew several hours before Federal troops from Fort Wayne, Ind., and Mt. Clemens, Mich., in full battle array, entered the city. Despite the Governor's orders, clashes between Negroes and whites continued unabated on the East Side, an area with a population of more than 40,000 Negroees.

During the day, bands of hoodlums brandishing lead pipes, bricks, and broken glass bottles swarmed over the neighborhood unhampered by the police.

In the three other Negro "islands" of the city, and before the Hudson Arsenal and other war plants, similar bands began mobilizing for trouble.

Little effort was made to disperse them. Automobiles parked along the streets were wrecked and overturned, some even burned, and store windows were smashed for blocks and stores looted. War production was halted when hundreds of Negro war workers refused to go to work in order to protect their families.

FASCIST-PLANNED

The incident that touched the match to the flame, which trade union and civic leaders here say is in reality a sinister and planned plot of fascist forces to hamper the war effort, was an innocent enough fight between a sailor and a Negro at Belle Isle, a public resort on Sunday.

A general brawl ensued which quickly spread from the park to various parts of the city and finally concentrated on the East Side when it was invaded by white hoodlums.

The riot followed fighting last week at Eastwood Park where hoodlums beat up every Negro they could lay their hands on and other disturbances in Inkster, a suburb of Detroit, which was blown up into a race riot by the Hearst Times.

An emergency meeting of more than 250 representatives of labor, fraternal, church and civic groups, both Negro and white, met in the dining hall of the Lucy Thurman branch YWCA Monday noon to take steps to quell the rioting. Mayor Jeffries, who attended, presented a plan to the delegates to quell the rioting which they considered unsatisfactory.

He told them that 3,500 police and 1,000 auxiliary police were mobilized on the East Side; but delegates called his attention to the fact that police were concentrated in the Negro community and that the majority of the injured and killed were also Negro. They demanded that it was the responsibility of the police to be impartial and protect all citizens regardless of race, color and creed. They further demanded the arrest of leaders of the mobs who were beating up Negroes.

HEARST TIMES BLAMED

R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, declared: "The statement that no organization is behind this is completely false. The rioting taking place . . . is a manifestation of lawlessness and racial hatred which have no place in any American city. . . . While our armed forces are fighting to exterminate hitlerism and racial hatred throughout the world, no American should lend himself to creating and fostering intolerance and violence in our own country."

Judge Patrick O'Brien condemned the instigators of the riots and volunteered his personal aid and the help of the Lawyers' Guild. During the meeing the Hearst Times was criticized for its inflammatory and inciting reporting of the fighting."

At Fort Custer, outside Detroit, members of the Negro quartermaster battalion commandeered jeeps and trucks to go to Detroit to aid their families and friends. Before they could leave camp, however, they were thrown into jail.

At one street corner, white soldiers came to the aid of a Negro saying: "You guys are stirring up something we are trying to stop."

SHOOT TO KILL

Police indicted themselves when they released the list of dead.

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Hitler Speaks!

"AMERICA IS PERMANENTLY ON THE BRINK OF REVOLUTION. IT WILL BE A SIMPLE MATTER FOR ME TO PRODUCE UNREST AND REVOLTS IN THE UNITED SATES, SO THAT THESE GENTRY WILL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. WE HAVE NO USE FOR THEM IN EUROPE.

"I SHALL NEVER START A WAR WITHOUT THE CERTAINTY THAT A DEMORALIZED ENEMY WILL SUCCUMB TO THE FIRST STROKE OF A SINGLE GIGANIC ATTACK."—QUOTED FROM ADOLF HITLER AND REPRINTED FROM PM

JUN 26 1943

NEWSPAPER, TUESDAY, JUNE 12.

Natl. Groups Ask FDR To Intervene in Riots

The following organizations, through their officers have sent requests to President Roosevelt to take immediate action to end the serious racial conflicts occuring throughout the nation:

CIO, Philip Murray, president; Negro Labor Victory Committee, Ferdinand Smith, chairman, Charles Collins, secretary; National Negro Congress, Max Yergan, president; National Urban League, Lester Granger, executive secretary; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Walter White, executive secretary.

All of the messages urged the President to appeal to America to resist Axis propaganda, which is felt to be the cause of outbreaks throughout the country.

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RIOT BULLETIN—Up to Tuesday afternoon, 1,400 persons, nearly 1,000 of whom are Negroes, had been arrested, charged with inciting to riot and carrying concealed weapons.

Walter White, secretary of the NAACP, flew to Detroit.

The CIO has ralled a special meeting.

Food in the Negro section is scarce and it has been rumored that the water has been poisoned.

A Negro street car motorman was shot as he attempted to maneuver his trolley through the white mob.

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James W. Ford

Communist Leader Says Gov't Must Disband KKK

The Worker New York, N. Y.

JUN 29 1943

By James W. Ford

Mass anti-Negro riots in Detroit have been suppressed by the firm action of the Federal Government. After a three-day interruption of work because of absenteeism in plants, ranging from 15 per cent to 50 per cent, production has about returned to normal. There are still, however, some isolated disturbances here and there. But these are provocations and beating and shooting of defenseless Ne-

groes by disgruntled Detroit police who have

...ion of the overwhelming majority of serious and responsible opinion in the City of Detroit.

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FIFTH COLUMN ATTACK

The Citizens' Committee, headed by Reverend Charles A. Hill, declared: 'We must face the fact that the American people were caught off guard by an organized fifth-column attack on one of our vulnerable points — that of racial discrimination."

Dr. James J. McClendon, president of the Detroit branch of the NAACP, stated: "Remember the Axis method of dividing and conquering."

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Following a meeting with Mayor Jeffries, a group of civic leaders of Detroit consisting of R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO; Reverend Benjamin Bush, President of the Detroit Council of Churches; Judge Patrick H. O'Brien, and others issued a statement declaring "that these outrages are the result of organized fifth-column activity, and do not represent the overwhelming majority of white citizens."

Another group of white civic leaders declared: "This is not an isolated incident arising from a chance fist-fight—but is part of an organized **national** fifth-column." (Emphasis mine, J. W. F.)

The State Committee of the Communist Party of Michigan issued a statement declaring:

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"Hitler's fifth-column has struck at the war effort of our democracy. It struck against our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt. These anti-Negro riots must be publicly branded for what they are — an Axis-inspired effort, organized for the purpose of wrecking the unity of the American people and helping fascism. It is timed by the fifth-column as our boys are set to invade Europe."

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Most Detroit papers made similar characterizations of the organized disorders. The **Detroit News**, in its June 1 issue, declared: **"Detroiters who participate in rioting or encourage it actually are working for the Axis although they may not realize that."** (Emphasis, theirs.)

These estimations are essentially correct and completely refute and sharply point out the dangers inherent in a minority opposite opinion which declares that "This is a normal happening under the conditions of the stress of war," "that the whole trouble apparently had its inception in an isolated fist-fight," or that "it was a hoodlum element of colored people who were carrying it on."

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The Detroit News, in its issue of June 23 reformulates its opinion of June 21, and declares that we should rid ourselves on the idea that the rioting was organized or instigated by "enemy agents or by the Ku Klux Klan." Police Supt. Louis Berg, discounted fifth-column activity when he announced on June 23 that "there is no evidence that this riot was organized in anyway by fifth-columnists." Unfortunately, John S. Bugas, in charge of the Detroit FBI., holds the same point of view. W. K. Kelsey, prominent columnist of the Detroit News, declares that it is nonsense "about the racial trouble being fifth-column activity."

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This is a fatal mistake. We hope it is not a move to cover up the real culprits whose identity is becoming more clear. We hope that none of these sources is becoming a spearhead to ward off an absolutely necessary thorough Grand Jury and Federal investigation to once and for all identify the Nazi center and disband it. We reaffirm that the Detroit disturbance was the work of a fifth-column, inspired by political opposition to President Roosevelt and the home front war effort.

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The failure and criminally ineffectual work of civil authorities—city, county and state—to put down the insurrection and establish law and order, as well as the connivance of some members of the police department, made it mandatory for President Roosevelt, as Commander-in-Chief of our nation at war, to step in and firmly re-establish law and order.

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ACTION VITAL

It is now necessary, in view of the national character of a whole series of fifth-column provocations —Mobile, Alabama; Los Angeles, California; Newark, New Jersey; Chester, Pa.; Beaumont, Texas— to seriously undertake actions to stamp out the conspiracy altogether.

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The fountain head of the fifth-column in Detroit must be identified, punished and suppressed. The purpose of the remainder of this article is to begin to call names and give addresses.

I was in Detroit for six weeks from the beginning of February. At that time, commenting upon an interview with me, the **Michigan Chronicle**, leading Negro weekly, in its issue of Feb. 6, 1943, stated: "Mr. Ford declared that the Ku Klux Klan and other fifth-column organizations which seek to disrupt national unity and impede the war effort are operating on a grand scale." That was true.

At that time I secured a few facts about the activities of the Klan in the Sojourner Truth Housing Project provocation. Since then, more have been obtained. I now want to set down some facts as a basis for further and more thorough unravelling of the Ku Klux Klan conspiracy to sabotage the war effort, disrupt trade unions and stir up anti-Negro disturbances.



KKK

The Klan has concentrated on the point that could be most vulnerable to the war effort, namely the trade unions.

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LISTS CHARGES

I charge that Klan agents attempted to destroy Packard Local 190 of the UAW with anti-war and anti-Negro activity.

1—Two years ago George F. Addes, International Secretary-Treasurer of the UAW, warned Packard Local 190 that the Ku Klux Klan was preparing disruptive campaign in that union.

2—The leader of the KKK in Packard and in Local 190 was Frank Buehrle.

3—One of Homer Martin's stooges, and union member, Harvey Hanse was (probably still is) active in Packard.

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4—Upon close investigation it was disclosed that the KKK leader, Frank Buehrle, organized a move to capture leadership of the union two elections ago.

5—Buehrle worked out a list of KKK supported candidates and sought a merger with the ACTU—Associated of Catholic Trade Unionists.

6—Paul Butler, associated with the ACTU, Frank Buehrle, and others were sought to conspire to capture leadership of Local 190 in that election.

7—Frank Buehrle fought the union's program of War Bond sales, Civilian Defense and production.

8—Three years ago Frank Buehrle was proselyting the union members who were "protestants, whites, native born" for Klan membership.

9—Meetings of the Klan for this purpose were held at 89 West Warren Street.

10—In 1941 there was organized in Local 190 by Klan agents a club known as "Club 69." This club functioned secretly with its own rules and regulations.

11—There was also one, Culack, a follower of the Christian Front, who formed a united front with Buehrle and the ACTU. All opposed the union's war program.

12—Local 190 worked out a 15-point war program consisting of War Bond and Stamp sales, conversion of plants to war production, seniority rights for workers. Buehrle fought this program. He threatened Klan opposition to it and also sabotage to the Murray Plan of Labor-Management Committees.

13—At the Buffalo Convention of the International Union, UAW-CIO, the Klan became more bold. It was disclosed that there were about 600 Klan union delegates at the convention.

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14—Buehrle was the organizer of all anti-Negro sentiment at the Packard plant and among union members.

15—Klansmen under the leadership of Buehrle fought against the rights of Negro workers to better jobs, promotions and tranfers from one department to another in the plant.

16—Frank Buehrle, a known Klansman, was the ring leader of this conspiracy to disrupt the union and obstruct its war program. There are available the names of many more individuals who have some knowledge of Klan activity in the Packard plant and in Local 190 over a two-year period from around 1939 to 1942. These records are available for investigation. In a serious desire to prevent further occurrence of riots and disorders and to prosecute those guilty of these obvious home front disorganizing activities, I call upon the Federal Government and the Grand Jury to thoroughly investigate these charges and make use of the records which would be available at their request.

On Feb. 17, 1942, the Detroit News carried an interview with Buehrle which brought to public light this conspiracy of Klan activity in Packard Local 190.

R. C. Robinson was the reporter for the **Detroit News.**

All organizations of the people—Negro and white—should undertake independent investigations of the Klan conspiracy. It is especially incumbent upon the organized trade union movement—CIO-AFL—to undertake investigations and charges against the Klan.

Jury Chosen To Try Three In Riot Case

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

DETROIT, Mich.—(SNS)—

A jury of 12 women and one man were selected Monday in Recorders Court to hear the trial before Judge John J. Maher of three Negroes charged with inciting a riot.

Two weeks, perhaps longer, will be required to hear the testimony of 98 witnesses.

CHARGES OUTLIVED

The defendants are Leo Tipton, 35 years old, of 976 Wilkins, accused of broadcasting over a loud-speaker at the Forest Club on the night of June 20 a false report that whites on Belle Isle had thrown a Negro mother and baby into the river; Charles (Little Willie) Lyons, 22, of 5815 Brush, alleged to have been the messenger who bore the rumor to Tipton, and Harper Morgan, 17, of 1026 Medbury, who is said to have repeated the story outside the club.

Two of the witnesses to be called are suspended Negro policemen, William M. Williams and Jesse Stewart, who are alleged to have been present in the Forest Club when Tipton made his riot-inciting speech and did nothing to prevent the violence which followed.

The jury will be sworn in Tuesday after arguments to quash the cases, on grounds that charges are vague, indefinite and uncertain.

ALL-WHITE JURY

The all-white jury includes:

Mrs. Theresa Lopine, of 8456 Siebert; Mrs. Alma Gillan, of 10538 E. Vernor; Mrs. Clare Hambaum, of 5295 Maryland; Mrs. Lillian P. Hagan, of 2635 W. Euclid; Mrs. Hattie Hostetter, of 3187 Alter Road; Mrs. Bertha E. Freer, of 3950 Somerset; Mrs. Leona L. Frazier, of 19212 Omira; Mrs. Pearl L. Martin, of 7442 E. Robinwood; George W. Krauel, of 3450 Atkinson; Mrs. Elna L. McBryde, of 1856 Harlow; Mrs. Jennie Lutz, of 8300 Dubay;

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...a committee of ...citizens to study ...d riots.
...a special bira...ail to act swiftly ...ions and operate ...express prevention ...basic causes ...a representative ...and private fin...projects.
...anagement and la...ompily and justly ...in race situations on the Industrial front.
...Extension of recreational and health facilities to accommodate the increased population.

SEATTLE, Aug. 5—(ANP)—Ex... The proposals of the Union to ...pressing grave concern over the ...prevent racial disorders were in...

Offer 5 Point Anti-Riot Plan

Courier

FBI Uncovers Evidence: New Inquiry

Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

Citizens Committee, Church Group Demand Federal Grand Jury in Detroit

SEP 4-1943

By T. JOHN WOOD

(Special to the Amsterdam News)

DETROIT.—A growing chain of evidence, linking Axis agents to the June 20-21 race riots began this week to tighten against "stooge" associates of a spy ring rounded up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the Detroit Citizens Committee and the 57th Annual Michigan Conference of AME Churches, joined the Civil Rights Federation in demanding a Federal grand jury investigation of the causes of the recent riot and the immediate prosecution of three white men indicted for sedition in the Sojourner Truth riot of February 28, 1942.

Subversive Gang

A direct link between the recently arrested Nazis agents and instigators of the Sojourner Truth riot and the June 20-21 incident, was bared last week when the FBI disclosed that Dr. Fred W. Thomas, one of several held here as spies, was a member of, and a heavy contributor to the National Workers League which has been exposed as a subversive organization.

FBI records also revealed that Dr. Thomas was an active member of the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association, whose president, Joseph Buffa, led the fight against Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth homes and warned the City Council that whites would riot if Negroes were moved into the project.

Evidence Piles Up

A closer link between the Nazis agents and the riot leaders was seen when the FBI disclosed that Dr. Thomas made several attempts to place Parker Sage in a key position at the Ford Motor Company plant. Sage, who headed the National Workers League, was indicted for sedition in the Sojourner Truth incident. Also indicted were Virgil Chandler, one of the officers of the improvement association, and Garland Alderman. The indictment charged that Sage, Chandler and Alderman conspired to prevent Negroes from occupying the Sojourner Truth homes.

Chandler aided Buffa in the open fight against Negro occupancy of the homes while Sage and Alderman worked behind the scenes through the National Workers League. Buffa was named as a co-conspirator but was not indicted.

Although it has been two years since Federal Prosecutor John C. Lehr returned the indictments against the three men, they have escaped prosecution, but have been in the forefront of every anti-Negro demonstration in the city. Last year, Chandler ran for the City Council on an anti-Negro platform while still under Federal indictment.

Had Part In June Riot

In demanding a Federal investigation of the riots, and the immediate prosecution of the indicted seditionists, the Civil Rights Federation charged that a closer investigation will reveal that these three men helped plan the June 20-21 riot.

The Federation's petition also charged that the Dies Committee, which sought credit for linking the seditionists to the spy ring, actually protected the three men from prosecution. A similar charge was levelled at Prosecutor John C. Lehr.

The resolution adopted by the AME Conference, with Bishop John A Gregg presiding, charged that placing the blame for the riot on the Negro people only "makes possible the recurrence of such incidents" and asked for a complete investigation so that Detroit's citizens can "get on with the business of winning the war and living in peace."

FBI Head Raps Dies

Both the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Civil Rights Federation condemned Martin Dies and his Committee on Un-American Activities for attempting to take credit for the expose of the link between the spies and the indicted seditionists.

In a retort to Dies, John S. Bugas, head of the FBI office here, said, "the Dies Committee has not been interested in the case and hasn't given two cents worth of assistance." The Civil Rights Federation charged that Dies, who claims to have confiscated 500 names of alleged Axis sympathizers in a raid on Sage's office two years ago, could have investigated a possible tie-up between this group and the June 20-21 riot, but that Dies, instead, "threatened to come to Detroit to investigate Japanese activities among Negroes.

"It is singularly strange that Dies, who know reveals that he knew of the link between Sage, the National Workers League and Dr. Thomas, as far back as January 1942, makes public his material 20 months later, when the work of the FBI makes it dangerous for Dies longer to conceal it . . . the conclusion that Dies was shielding and protecting enemy agents is inescapable."

How Axis Aided Seditionists

Dr. Thomas, according to the FBI reports, not only was a member of the National Workers League, but was one of its heaviest contributors. It was disclosed that Dr. Thomas issued checks to many of his "patients" who afterward turned the money over to the League.

The money was used to disseminate anti-Negro and anti-Jewish literature in Detroit and pay for meeting halls where National Workers League members planned the Sojourner Truth riot and laid the groundwork for the June 20-21 riot.

Prior to the Sojourner Truth riot, the Civil Rights Federation and Negro reporters in Detroit exposed the minutes of meetings of the National Workers League and it was this expose that led to the indictment of Sage, Chandler and Alderman.

Following the indictment, known members of the League, working in close cooperation with Ku Klux Klan elements, promoted a series of "hat strikes" in defense plants here. The same group was responsible for outbreaks between Negro and white students at the Ferndale school and last spring led a mob stoning the homes of Negroes on Central Avenue, on Detroit's West Side.

Reports of these incidents link members of the National Workers League with each outbreak, and because of heavy contributions to the League by members of the recently arrested spy ring, it is believed that Axis agents were directly responsible for the June 20-21 riot.

Biddle Asked to Probe Spy Tie-up with Detroit Riot

Afro-American

Baltimore, Maryland

DETROIT.—The Civil Rights Federation filed a petition last week with Attorney-General Francis Biddle, asking for a grand jury investigation of spy activities here, linking them with the June riot, the National Workers' League and Gerald K. Smith's America First party.

The action followed the capture by FBI agents of six alleged leaders of a Nazi spy ring here. They are Countess Marianna von Moltke, wife of a Wayne University professor, now suspended; Bertrand Hoffman, sailor in the U.S. Navy; Mrs. Emma Leonhardt; Dr. Fred W. Thomas and Countess Grace B. Dineen.

Raps Prosecutor Dowling

In published FBI reports, Dr. Thomas is accused of trying to induce the Ford Motor Company to hire Parker Sage, lecturer now awaiting trial on a charge of conspiring to keep colored workers from the Sojourner Truth housing project in February, 1942. The Federal indictment accuses him of helping to stage the riot there.

The federation charges further that "Wayne County Prosecutor Dowling's whitewash report to the governor and the other 'white papers' issued by public officials here placing the blame upon colored people and explaining the insurrection as spontaneous became only shields for the guilty in the light of these facts."

Jeffries Says He Doubts Inquiry Will Produce Much

PM New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondent

DETROIT, Aug. 30.—Detroit's Mayor Edward Jeffries, after some weeks of delay, has added his voice to those who are urging that a special grand jury be convened to investigate the causes and incidents of the city's race riots in which 35 lives were lost. The Mayor told the Detroit City Council that he did not have much faith that a grand jury would produce more facts than have thus far been turned up, but that a special jury would have a good "psychological effect."

Hopes for Effect

He felt it might demonstrate to the city and the country that Detroit is doing everything it can to track down those responsible for the deaths and disorders.

The Mayor's suggestion failed to win immediate approval of the City Council. George Edwards, laborite, moved that the council join in a petition to the Cirouit Court for creation of a one-man special investigating body.

A majority of the Council, however, took the view that no action should be taken until Wayne County Prosecutor William E. Dowling has made public a promised report both on the riot and on his views concerning a special grand jury.

Majority Stalls

Dowling on Tuesday of this week expressed himself as vigorously opposed to a grand jury. He held Negro groups and Negro papers responsible for the riots. The National Assn. for the Advancement of the Colored People, the United Automobile Workers, CIO, and others, immediately assailed Dowling for his statement. They charged he was opposed to creating a grand jury, which would in fact supersede his own efforts, because such an investigation might turn up more facts than his own office has been able to produce.

DETROIT FACT FINDING BOARD PROBING RIOTS HITS NEGRO LEADERS AND PRESS, DECLARE DISORDERS WERE NOT PREMEDITATED

AUG 20 1943

Detroit, Aug. 20. (ANP)—In a lengthy report submitted to Gov. Harry F. Kelly last week by his committee investigating the June 21 race riots here, Negro leaders who have "exhorted" gatherings to press for "racial equality" and the Negro press that has appealed for "justice by violence" are accused of being partly responsible for the debacle. The committee's report declared that "no subversive elements inspired the riots," and that they were "not premeditated."

Prosecutor William E. Dowling headed the investigating group known as the Dowling committee. He was assisted by Atty. Gen. Herbert J. Rushton, Detroit Police Commissioner John W. Witherspoon, and State Police Commissioner Oscar Olander.

The Plaindealer

Pointing out that if the "tension existing between the white and Negro population" were eliminated the riots never would have occurred, claiming the lives of 34 persons, 25 of whom were Negroes—and injuries to 700 others, the report stated:

Kansas City, Kan.

"Perhaps most significant in precipitating the racial tension existing in Detroit is the positive exhortation by many so-called responsible Negro leaders to be 'militant' in the struggle for racial equality."

An excerpt from a story by a writer for the Detroit Tribune is cited in the paper and charged with "clearly" constituting "an appeal to extract 'justice' by violence." The report went on:

"Such appeals unfortunately have been commonplace in the Negro newspaper. Can it be doubted that they played an important part in exciting the Negro people to the violence which resulted in Detroit on June 21?

"Some self-designated responsible Negro leaders must share with the colored newspapers responsibility for the unfortunate attitude of certain Negro elements."

AUG 20 1943

Declaring itself as serving the single purpose of letting the public know the "whole truth" about the riot and asserting it held no "conclusions of a conjectural or controversial nature" the report continued:

"This committee is of the firm conviction that both white and Negro rioters lacked perconceived of premeditated organization. The spontaneity with which incidents occurred at various locations, both within and outside the affected area, discloses the absence of planning on the part of either group."

The committee delved into past incidents to find causes that may have helped explode violence between the two racial groups here. It held that:

"Certainly no criticism is to be made of the honest efforts of responsible leaders, both Negro and white, who seek by lawful means the removal of unjust barriers between the races. But it is equally certain that vigorous criticism should be directed to those irresponsible leaders, who by their words and conduct, actively inspire among their followers a disregard for law, order and ju-

Some Negro leaders, the report held, "have an anti-social and fac- ders must face the ever mounting social problem and expressed the hope it can be solved "but it said that all race measures."

"Past reluctance to face the problem has bred distrust and suspicion magnifying actual and pretsumed grievances minimizing the reseponsibility and duty to properly constituted government and social order," asserted the review.

Conclusions set forth in the Dowling document are:

1. "The riot was not planned or premeditated."
2. "The riot was not inspired by enemy subversive influence."
3. "The riot resulted from smoldering racial tension which was inflamed as the result of several disconnected incidents on Belle Isle, provoked by a group of Negroes.'
4. "The looting and accompanying rioting followed the spreading of a false, inflammatory rumor by Tipton, to the effect that whites had killed a colored woman and her child on Belle Isle."
5. "Irresponsible white and Negro youths were responsible for most of the casualties and the damage resulting."
6. "The ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with the law violators."

Dr. James McLendon, president of the local branch NAACP, in a statement vigorously denounced and opposed the findings of the governor's investigating committee, but declared that this was no time for extended argumentation. He said the law abiding Negro and white citizens of Detroit in cooperation with legal and other city officials must band together to rebuild the community from the debris.

Gov. Kelly also received a report from Dr. C. F. Ramsey, director, state department of public welfare, on interviews and psychological studies made of 340 eprsons arrested.

Of the persons interviewed Ramsey said none were recent migrants to the city and 74 per cent have lived here five years or more. Most of them held jobs with more than two-thirds in war plants with an average weekly wage of $54.

Almost 40 per cent of the prisoners had high school educations and 45 per cent were married the report stated. About 25 per cent were illiterate and 13 per cent displayed emotional qualities or psychopathic tendencies. Eighteen per cent had been rejected for military service.

"The interviewed men," said Dr. Ramsey, "were not the instigators, nor did they seem to have any previous knowledge of planned action, but became involved mainly out of their individual reaction to the situation."

Meanwhile three Negroes accused in the Dowling report with spreading inflammatory rumors are either being held by police for trial or are under sentence. They are Aaron Fox, 17, and Charles Lyons, 20, charged with the actual starting of the riot "because they wanted to even the score for being ejected from Eastwood park five days before by a group of white youths." The other person is Leo Tipton (the Tipton referred to in the Dowling report) a check room attendant at the Forest club, a night spot in "Paradise Valley," who allegedly seized a microphone and shouted to a group of dancers:

"This is Sgt. Fuller. There's a riot at Belle Isle. The whites have killed a colored lady and baby. Thrown them over the bridge. Everybody get their hat and coat and come on. There is free transportation outside."

The Sgt. Fuller referred to is a well known Negro policeman in the district. Gov. Kelly's committee however declared that "there is no suggestion that this police sergeant was in any way connected with Tipton's announcement."

Lyons is serving a term of two to five years in state prison for breaking and looting a Hastings street store the second night of the rioting Fox is awaiting trial on a charge of aggravated assault. Tipton, according to attaches of the ocal jail, will be charged with inciting to riot.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

By WALTER WHITE

A Record of Infamy

SAVAGERY is the word newspaper commentators have used a lot to describe what had taken place here in Detroit since last Sunday night. The word is utterly inaccurate, and a gross libel on savages. Primitives kill to obtain food and from fear. They neither lynch nor kill for the sheer sadistic joy of killing.

Mobs do. Detroit has established these last few days a record of infamy and barbarism such as I have never seen before in more than fifty race riots and lynchings I have investigated.



Walter White

Coming into Detroit from the airport Monday afternoon I saw boys of seventeen and women transformed in a flash from outwardly placid, normal human beings into a snarling, hate-filled pack of murderers. Down the street a voice shouted, "There goes one!" Quicker than one can tell it, the crowd became a mob.

Human faces became distorted into forms which made one sick at the stomach. I never found out what happened to the victim. The two white men with whom I shared the cab did not share my wish to follow the mob and the driver, who talked bitterly about "niggers" in a middle-European accent, feared his cab might be damaged.

Blows Below Belt

FROM THEN ON I say day after day and night after night scenes of violence as raw as any battlefield ever staged. In fact, it was more raw. There is discipline and cold method in the organized business of mass slaughter with codes of honorable conduct even to one's enemy.

But here there were no codes. Any blow above the belt was entirely unintentioned and accidental.

It is unfortunate that a small percentage of the Negro community was as ruthless and guilty as any on the other side. This element looted and destroyed stores in the Negro sections along Hastings, John R., and adjacent streets with a wanton vandalism that sullies the gallant fight in self-defense which was put up by hopelessly outnumbered colored men and women caught in white neighborhoods.

But there is no need of my repeating here the bleak, sordid details of the riot. Instead we must face the grim fact that what happened in Detroit can happen again in Detroit and in any one of eight or ten other cities, both North and South.

Recently Carl Murphy of the Afro-American said that I was too pessimistic. I wish most fervently he were right. I fear he isn't.

And because of that fear we must utilize every possible method of averting these catastrophies. First, we must find an effective and immediate means of checking the hoodlums and trouble makers in our own group whose acts can and will be used as the excuse and spark for riots which will cost the lives and property of innocent people.

Having cleaned house we must simultaneously make America face these riots for what they are — insurrection and treason.

Weakens War Effort

THERE IS a minority — pitifully small — of white people who are moved to action on such issues on an ethical basis. But the overwhelming majority, victims of generations of false concepts of the Negro, can be stirred to action only by self-interest — **white** self-interest.

Because it is a military secret no civilian can secure accurate figures on the number of tanks, planes, guns, engines which were **not** made in Detroit this week because of the riot.

Even less measureable is the damage done to the United Nations cause by Tokyo, Berlin, Vichy and Rome broadcasts about the battle of Woodward avenue.

These and other down-to-earth considerations must be hammered home ceaselessly through paid advertisements, radio, and every other media to cause Americans to do something immediately to check Ku Klux Klan and other agitators and to clean up their police forces and city, state and Federal law enforcement machinery.

Many a city has a police force as futile, prejudiced and downright inefficient as Detroit's is. Many a city has as spineless a mayor as Detroit's Jeffries. Perhaps in one of these another riot will have happened by the time these words reach print.

But we can stop them now if America wakes up If she doesn't these internal insurrections can lose her the war.

Detroit Destroys Democracy

Star of Zion Charlotte, N. C.

The tragedy of the race riots in Detroit which have taken the lives of some innocent people and left hundreds injured is appalling. Its poignance lies not so much in the immediate casualties, but in the bitter fact that many men in the nation's armed forces may lose their lives as a result of these riots. A few hoodlums, both white and Negro, were permitted to strike a match to a powder magazine of hate engendered and magnified

Detroit Dead: 25—Here's How Terror Raged 36 Hrs.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland
JUN 26 1943

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DETROIT—Martial law was declared by Gov. Harry Kelly of Michigan here tonight (Monday) at 10 o'clock as police announced that the mounting death toll had reached 25 dead, more than 600 injured, 1300 or more under arrest and other hundreds waiting to be booked.

At that time some 150 colored persons at police headquarters had been waiting in line for four hours to be booked.

While all this was going on, a mob of 6,000 whites got as far into the colored section as Bush Street where it was dispersed by police.

9 P. M. Curfew Ordered

At 9 p.m., curfew was put into effect, all persons being ordered off the streets at that hour and all amusement places were ordered closed.

The governor had announced earlier Monday afternoon that he was not considering declaring martial law, depending upon the arrival of State Troops and State police, expected Monday night, to quell the rioting.

4 of Dead Slain by Cops

Five of the colored persons killed had been identified by noon Monday. They were:

William Hardges, 27, and Robert Davis, 28, shot by a policeman at Division and Hastings Street after the alleged looting of a clothing store; Carl L. Singleton, 19, shot by a policeman who said he threw a brick at an officer;

Anderson L. Ford, shot during a disturbance at Kenilworth and Oakland Avenues, and Samuel Johnson, who bled to death after his left thigh was cut by broken glass from a plate glass window. An unidentified man was also killed by a policeman.

Three white victims, one a police sergeant, a physician and another white man, also lost their lives in the rioting.

Three Whites Slain

The officer was reported critically wounded in a gun battle with a store-looting gang and later died; the medic was allegedly beaten to death while answering a call and a 43-year-old white man was found dead at Brush and Warren Avenues, shot through the chest, according to police.

Fighting Began Sunday

The fighting began shortly before midnight Sunday at the Belle Isle bridge, entrance to a Detroit pleasure resort with a clash between colored and white boys. A score of persons were reported injured in the first clash. At that time, 200 policemen and 400 service men were able to quell the disturbance.

Uniformed service men formed a jeep barricade across the bridge in order to prevent other persons from entering the area where the fight took place.

Hostilities Resumed

Several hours later, the fighting was resumed in the colored section of town near Hastings Street.

According to police reports, cars driven by white persons were stoned and in some instances overturned. Many of the white persons admitted to hospitals were treated for glass cuts and bruises raised by stones.

In another section of the city, at Woodward and Adelaide Streets, a crowd of 300 to 400 whites stoned all passing autos containing colored persons, one car being forced to strike a safety zone and overturn, according to police.

The gang, police said, was dispersed after police riot cars arrived with twenty officers armed with machine guns and tear gas pistols. The crowd was compased mainly of young men dressed in overalls and working clothes, police said.

Use Tear Gas at City Hall

Tear gas was also brought into play within the shadow of the City Hall after a crowd of whites chased a colored youth from Monroe Avenue when officers used the gas to disperse the crowd, many of them shoppers.

Capt. Donald Leonard, State police head, said the governor had ordered mobilization at two local armories of 1000 State troops and 400 or 500 members of the State police force.

At the time, 3,500 uniformed and auxiliary policemen, the largest number in the history of the city, had been able to quiet the rioting temporarily. However the entire nursing and medical staff of the receiving hospital had been called for emergency duty.

Jeers Meet Peace Move

The Rev. Horace White of Plymouth Congregational Church and Otis Saunders of the Double V Committee, told Mayor Jeffries they were met by jeers when they toured the trouble area in a police car with sound amplifier, appealing for an end to the fighting.

Won't Deputize Colored

They recommended that 200 colored leaders be deputized as special officers as the best means to halt the rioting. Police officials agreed to call in the 200 men as aides, but declared they would not be deputized nor armed.

It was pointed out that many colored men are among the auxiliary policemen trained by civilian defense units to aid police during air raids who have already been ordered mobilized.

According to Messrs. White and Saunders, one cause of the riot was an erroneous report that a colored women and child were slain Sunday on Belle Isle, recreational and swimming resort in the Detroit River.

Saloons, Schools Close

The riots have resulted in the closing of all saloons here and in Hamtramck; pawnshops have been ordered to remove all guns and other weapons from their windows and lock them in safes, one pawnshop having been looted of all weapons.

Thirteen elementary schools were closed after pupils stayed away or were taken home by frightened parents; all-night theatres ordered closed and operations on two streetcar lines into the colored section were halted when motormen refused to hazard trips into the district.

According to police, property damage is considerable, every window on Hastings Street, Paradise Valley of the colored section, being broken for a distance of twenty-five blocks.

Armed with beer and pop bottles, bricks and improvised weapons of scrap iron and table legs, white mobs gathered on the edge of the colored district on the East side and brutally beat isolated colored citizens, overturning automobiles in which they were riding and setting their cars on fire.

In retaliation, colored mobs formed within the colored district and stoned all whites who were caught in the ghetto. Over a hundred stores on Brush, Beaubien, St. Antoine, Hastings and Oakland Streets which are owned and operated by whites in the colored district have been looted and wrecked.

Stores Looted

Thousands of dollars of merchandise and foodstuffs, including sacks of sugar and Virginia hams, were snatched from the shelves of the stores while cruising cars of police fled to areas of greater trouble.

In an effort to restore law and order, the Citizens' Committee headed by the Rev. Charles Hill, who was hit over the head on Warren Avenue, called an emergency meeting Monday noon of colored and white civic leaders and city officials. Mayor Edward J. Jeffries who was present told the two hundred persons assembled at the Lucy Thurman YWCA that 3500 police officers were on the streets. He agreed to deputize several hundred citizens, some colored and some white, as auxiliary police.

Axis Blamed

UAW-CIO President R. J. Thomas told the group that this riot was inspired by the Axis and pledged that the officers of the union would mobilize the workers in ever plant to allay the rioting and prevent a stoppage of production of war goods. The group adopted several proposals calculated to stem the wave of rioting and create goodwill between the races.

At 6:30 Monday evening Mayor Jeffries made a radio appeal to Detroit citizens to stop the stupid slaughter and restore order in the community. He charged that the riot was fomented by fifth columnists. Despite the fact that some city officials stated that the riot was an organized outbreak, a Daily News reporter interviewed a physician at the professional office building on Woodward Avenue where white rioters assembled, who stated that these white hoodlums had a car loaded with bricks and iron bars parked at the curb.

Police Afraid?

Their leaders could be seen directing them. Pulling colored people from cars and beating them mercilessly. Although he refused to permit the use of his name the white doctor declared that the police seemed afraid to interfere.

Thousands of colored workers at Ford, Packard, Briggs, Bohn Aluminum and other war plants left the factory and very few reported for the Monday afternoon shift in most of the plants.

Although no work stoppages have resulted, absence of colored workers has affected war production. Nearly 600 persons have been jailed by police on charges ranging from the malicious destruction of property to felonious assault.

Cops Aid Tension

The behavior of the arresting officers in the colored district heightened the tension and the colored leaders charged that the police were promoting the riot by their terrorizing tactics and sheer brutality.

Already 340 persons of whom 200 are estimated to be colored, have been hospitalized or treated by private physicians for various injuries, and the list is still growing.

Frantically trying to keep the mobs apart, Detroit policemen whipped out tommy guns, and threw tear gas bombs almost always in one direction—at the colored people.

On Tuesday morning, 4 truck loads of colored soldiers were reported on their way here from Fort Custer, armed with shotguns, and other weapons.

Apartment House Fired

A mob of 6,000 whites was held by police on Woodward Avenue, and kept from entering the colored neighborhood. Colored autoists, driving on Woodward Avenue, were pulled from their cars and beaten, and the cars overturned and burned.

DEATH LIST

cock, bled to death.
Two unidentified John Does, one shot by local police.
Four John Does, 2 shot by State police.
William Hardges, 27, 987 Division, shot by police.
James Jackson (tentative identification), shot by police.
Carl L. Singleton, 19, 968 E. Percy L. Peoples, 25, 4803 Brush Street, shot by police.
Warren Avenue, shot by police after throwing bricks.
Mrs. Carrie Hackworth, 29, 627 Anderson L. Ford, 930 Mack Avenue, allegedly shot by police.
Mt. Vernon, killed by flying brick.
Ernest James, 24, 568 Smith Street, shot by police.
Fred Lathon, 24, 679 Medbury Street, shot in chest.
Samuel Johnson, 27, 640 E. Hancock, Robert Davis, 28, 620 Euclid

DETROIT RIOT

Roy Jackson, 30, 566 E. Elizabeth, bled to death.

Mose Kissick, 55, 4250 Brush Street, died in hospital of gun-shot wound in stomach.

J. W. Wright, 8215 Oakland, shot by police.

Bishop Haas, 20, 304 Alfred Street, shot.

Marvin Rich, 30, 2427 John R., shot in gun battle with police.

Charles S. Grundy, 20, 4104 DuBois, shot in forehead.

Edmund Willis, 40, 690 Winder, shot in head by police.

JUN 26 1943

WHITE

Dr. Joseph Dehoratius, 3434 McDougal Avenue.

John Frailach, 43, of Romulus, found dead by police, shot in heart.

John Bogan, 27, 13460 Eureka.

Soldiers Trying to Reach Riot

By LEVI JOLLEY
Managing Editor,
Philadelphia AFRO-AMERICAN

DETROIT — Fort Custer officials on Tuesday reported the arrest there of five soldiers who had attempted to seize army ammunition and trucks to go to Detroit to assist their families.

A statement issued by the Post Commandant said:

"Members of a colored Quartermaster Battalion attempted to secure arms and trucks at Fort Custer today but were promptly arrested. Five of the men were confined in the Post Stockade awaiting investigation. The men had become restless over race disturbances and wanted to go to Detroit to assist their families."

JUN 26 1943

This announcement followed an earlier report from State Police Capt. Leonard that four truck loads of soldiers had gone AWOL

FEDERAL TROOPS QUIET DETROIT'S RIOTING GROUPS

JUN 23 1943

28 Killed. 700 Injured

Age-Herald
In Racial Strife At
Birmingham, Ala.
'Arsenal City'

DETROIT, June 22—(AP)—Underty orders to "load your guns and don't take anything from anybody," United States Army troops patrolled Detroit streets Tuesday, restoring calm to this great armament production center after 24 hours of racial conflict that brought death to 28 persons and injuries of varying degree to at least 700 others.

JUN 23 1943

All but three of the dead were Negroes; of the injured, 74 remained in hospitals Tuesday, six of them policemen.

An estimated 1,300 persons were under arrest. Police officials said that about 85 per cent of them were Negroes averaging in age around 21. Most of them were held in specially-established prisons guarded by Michigan State Troops.

With the arrival of Army troops the violence and looting that flared up in different sections of the city from early Monday morning until last midnight subsided. Tuesday there had been no reports of further conflict, but saloons remained closed and public assemblages still were banned.

JUN 23 1943

Many Stay Off Jobs

Thousands of Negro factory workers, said to be fearful of renewed outbreaks, stayed away from work. An Office of War Information survey indicated Negro factory absenteeism Tuesday ranged from 50 to 90 per cent. The effect upon war goods production, plant spokesmen said, probably would not be apparent until Wednesday.

Cancelled were Tuesday's Cleveland-Detroit baseball game and the day's horse racing program at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. Theaters were permitted to remain open only until 9:15 p.m., and a curfew ordering all law-abiding citizens off the streets from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. also continued in effect.

Gov. Harry F. Kelly, who invoked these restrictions, announced after a conference with Army officers that the troops would stay in the Detroit area indefinitely.

In Recorder's Court Tuesday, 31 Negroes convicted of disturbing the peace in Monday's rioting were sentenced to 90-day terms in the Detroit House of Correction.

Sent into the area under a proclamation of President Roosevelt that took note of "unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings," the troops in trucks and jeeps, from which protruded muzzles of rifles and machine guns, patrolled the main streets and Monday's battle sectors.

Monday those streets and the outlying sectors were the scenes of savage hand-to-hand conflict between whites and Negroes.

The troops were enforcing limited form of military control. There were more than 1,000 of them on duty with as many more held in reserve in nearby Army posts. In the speedy jeeps and trucks they were available for quick movement to any affected area in a tri-county zone declared by Gov. Kelly to be in a state of emergency. Their equipment included armored cars and a Red Cross unit.

Gov. Kelly's state-of-emergency order covered Wayne County (Detroit) and adjoining Oakland and Macomb Counties, where many of the metropolitan area's larger armament factories are located.

The Army forces were under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, of the Sixth Service Command. He explained that martial law had not been proclaimed. The president's proclamation, he said, "gave federal assistance to the state of emergency." This form leaves the military subordinate to the civil authority.

Most of the debris of Monday's rioting in the downtown area—overturned and burned automobiles, shattered glass from smashed store fronts, the rocks and clubs used by warring men and women not otherwise armed—had been cleared away Tuesday. There was more visible evidence of the savagery of the outbreak in the upper east side Negro area.

JUN 23 1943

Police Lt. Albert Hartsig who toured the area told of signs on some houses reading: "This is a colored home; do not break in." These homes, Hartsig said, were untouched while others which bore no placards were wrecked and plundered.

Neutral Flag Flown

At another point in the middle east side Negro section police halted a Negro driving an automobile from the radiator of which flew a white flag. "That flag means I'm neutral," the driver explained; "I'm not taking any chances."

The officers said they found a revolver inside his shirt and booked him on a concealed weapons charge.

What led up to the clash still was debated. A group of prominent Negro citizens, in a statement urging Negroes to refrain from spreading inflammatory rumors and to pursue normal activities, charged it was fifth-column inspired.

John S. Bugas, head of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said he had no evidence that the riot was in any way planned or organized and that he did not believe any foreign power or Axis propaganda had any connection with it.

JUN 23 1943

"Do you think," Bugas said, "that the 200 kids—boys between the ages of 14 and 18, who stopped a streetcar, pulled off Negroes and pummelled them, were acting on orders? I don't."

Five White Youths Held for Murder In Detroit Riot

AUG 18 1943

Post
Washington, D. C.

Detroit, Aug. 17 (AP).—Five white youths today were ordered held for trial on first degree murder charges in the killing of Moses Kiska, 58-year-old Negro, in the race riots of June 21.

They are Aldo Trani, 16; Armendo Mastantuono, 18; Robert Cattone, 18; Anthony Saracano, 18, and Ralph Tancredi, 20.

Kiska was killed as he stood in a traffic safety zone by a shot fired from an automobile. He was one of 25 Negroes and 9 white persons killed in the rioting.

Interracial Group, CIO Make Demands

Courier
Houston, Texas

AUG 18 1943

By T. JOHN WOOD

DETROIT. — (ANP)—Added impetus to demands for a grand jury investigation of causes and circumstances of the recent race riots demands made by the Mayor's Interracial committee last week and which Prosecutor William J. Dowling said he would hesitate to heed unless the committee submits more "evidence," may come from organized labor, it was learned from reliable labor quarters this week.

Ready to Push Demands

A spokesman for the UAW-CIO said this week that the CIO is ready to push demands for a grand jury investigation, and also submit much of the evidence Prosecutor Dowling said he was in need of, but, he added, the CIO is waiting for further petitions for an investigation to come from the community through civic groups and Negro leaders.

* * * *

DETROIT.—(ANP)—Demands were made upon Mayor Edward J. Jeffries last week by his interracial committee investigating the causes behind the recent race clash here to authorize the grand jury to make further inquiry into the disorder. Thirty-four persons were killed in the riot.

William J. Norton, chairman of the committee, said that the members have voted unanimously to ask William W. Dowling, Wayne county prosecutor, for a one-man grand jury investigation of unsolved crimes growing out of the riot.

* * * *

Dowling, who said he would hesitate to call a one-man grand jury investigation of the race riots which resulted in 35 deaths, 13 of which are still unsolved, declared that an extensive investigation by seven agencies under Gov. Kelly's Fact-Finding committee had failed to turn up any evidence which would warrant the calling of a grand jury. These agencies, he said, are the FBI, the army intelligence service, the state police, the Detroit police and investigators from the attorney general's office.

JUL 3 1943

CIO Favors 13-Man Investigation

An [illegible] representative of the UAW-CIO said that while the CIO favors a grand jury investigation, it is opposed to a one-man grand jury. He said that it is the opinion of the CIO that only a 13-man grand jury can carry on an adequate investigation and get at the causes of the riot.

The CIO representative also said that R. J. Thomas, in conference with President Roosevelt last week, talked with the President about the riot and its causes and pointed out to President Roosevelt that an investigation is imperative if recurrences of the June 21 riot are to be averted. Thomas was also reported to have demanded action by the attorney general who has ignored reports of fifth column activity in Detroit.

Mayor Opposed to Probe

It is believed here the Mayor Jeffries and Prosecutor Dowling are opposed to a grand jury investigation for the same reason, namely, that such an investigation would reveal further support to charges of police laxity and brutality toward Negroes. Charges of police brutality continued to pour in last week as citizens reported that members of the department continue to use Gestapo tactics in enforcing the law.

Meantime, Dowling declared that he would issue a statement of facts based on reports of the seven agencies investigating the riot.

Asked if it would be another "white paper," Dowling replied, "My God, no. It's not going to be a white paper, a blue paper or a black paper—just a true statement of fact. I know what started this riot and I will tell the people all about it. A white paper is a defense. I need no defense.

Pressure from the CIO for a 23-man grand jury was expected to begin this week when R. J. Thomas returns here from his trip to Washington.

JUL 3 1943

Kelly Wants Public Aid

Whatever it was, Detroit missed an opportunity to dramatize in graphic detail the [illegible] some 27 Negroes.

Thursday and F[illegible]

[illegible]er contacted the [illegible] victims . . . the [illegible] homes of the [illegible] the underlying [illegible] are some of the [illegible] possibilities of giving to the nation and the world at large, concrete examples of civic unity, apparently "missed fire" the Wayne County [illegible] or the biggest chance of all. effect of the 24-hour "terror reign" many remain unidentified. which swept the city. From these sources we learned Perhaps it was the paralyzing There will be no "mass funerals."

JUL 31 1943

Detroit Misses Chance To Dramatize Riot Dead

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

DETROIT, Mich., July 1—This city, usually alive to the [illegible]

America Speaks:

What Caused Detroit Race Riots? Widely Varied Reasons Given

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky

Motor Capital Blames Floaters

By GEORGE GALLUP.
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion.

Princeton, N. J., July 27.—President Roosevelt has announced that the Attorney General and heads of a number of governmental agencies will begin a study of race riots.

So many factors are involved that only a group of experts can probably get at the bottom of these disturbances, which have flared up in this war just as they did in the last war.

Meanwhile, it is of interest and importance to know what people of the country think is the real cause of such riots as Detroit recently had.

Public Opinion Sought.

To find out just how the man-in-the-street explains these disturbances, the institute had field reporters throughout the nation put this question to a representative cross-section of men and women:

"What do you think is real cause of race riots such as Detroit has had?"

No answers were suggested. Each person was called on to give his own ideas. Residents of Detroit were asked this question along with people in all other major cities and sections of the country. Having had the advantage of seeing at close range the recent riot, Detroiters' views have particular interest.

Detroit Blames Floaters.

A high percentage of the persons interviewed in Detroit are inclined to ascribe the recent trouble there to "floaters and drifters attracted to the city by war work." Particularly, they are inclined to blame Southerners who have recently taken jobs in Detroit, and the lack of segregation of races both in the city proper and in Detroit factories. Others in Detroit are inclined to blame "young hoodlums" of both races and the present day "fast living" in the city, as well as bad housing conditions. A few typical comments of Detroiters are as follows:

"I think they've got the scum of the country here, and neither one likes the smell of the other. . . . Mrs. Roosevelt is partly to blame because she backs up the colored race all over the South. . . . Straight hoodlums in both races. . . . Factory jobs put too many Negroes too close to whites, and whites don't like it. . . . Beer gardens stay open too late; it's the young people. . . . Detroit's a fast town; things are geared high; the influx of great numbers of Negroes have given the whites the jitters. . . . Too many floaters from the South caused the riots, not the people from Detroit."

White persons interviewed in states south of the Mason-Dixon line blame lack of segregation, "trying to put Negroes and whites on an equal basis," labor leaders, and politics. Some white persons in the South think the trouble lies in the fact that "the Northerners don't understand the Negro." A few are inclined to blame agitators and ignorant people.

Negroes outside the South who were interviewed in the study ascribe the Detroit riot to "jealousy on the part of the whites," the fact that "white people don't ever try to like us." Others believe the cause to be Southerners who have migrated to the North since the war. A surprising number of Negroes are, however, willing to blame "hoodlums" among their own race as well as among the whites. Or, as one man put it, "a lot of uneducated whites and blacks with chips on their shoulders just looking for a chance to scrap."

Fifth Column Blamed.

Among other groups of the country, the reasons cited most often are "enemy influences . . . saboteurs . . . Fifth Column work . . . Nazi propaganda." There are others who believe that "bad living conditions, wrong leadership, and "war nerves" are chiefly to blame.

Here are some of the comments from across the nation: "Labor causes the trouble. . . . It's the saboteurs. . . . High wages to colored people does it. . . . Ignorance and intolerance. . . . Mixture of races on the same job . . . Unrest due to war. . . . Fundamental race hatred. . . . Darkies are getting out of hand. . . . Strikes. . . Bad living conditions . . . The Negroes up North think they are even better than the whites. . . . Politics. . . . Rumors. . . . Jealousy between races is the cause. . . . Negroes are getting too cocky from too much money."

Wilson Had Troubles.

During the World War, President Woodrow Wilson became so concerned over racial disturbances that he issued a plea which read in part as follows:

"I . . . very earnestly and solemnly beg that the Governors of all States, the law officers of every community, and, above all, the men and women of every community in the United States co-operate . . . to make an end of this disgraceful evil."

DETROIT RIOT KILLING CHARGED TO 4 YOUTHS

Times

Three Said to Confess Shooting Negro 'to Have Some Fun'

New York N. Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, July 30—Four white youths, three of them in their teens, were held by the police tonight for the murder of Moses Kiska, a Negro 58 years old, who was shot down in the race riot on June 21 while he was waiting for a street car.

William F. Dowling, prosecutor, said that he had confessions from three of the accused, who told him that they had a rifle and wanted "to have some fun."

Detectives said that the youths showed no more compunction about shooting Mr. Kiska than "normal men would show at going out to shoot clay pigeons."

Those held were identified as Aldo Trani, 16 years old; Armendo Mastantuano, 20, owner of the rifle; Robert Cattone, 17, and Anthony Saraceno, 18.

Mr. Dowling also disclosed the arrest of Leo Tipton, a Negro, described as one of the chief inciters of the race riots. He is alleged to have sent 500 persons from a Negro social club to Belle Isle to start the rioting.

JUL 29 1943
JUL 28 1943
JUL 28 1943
JUL 31 1943
JUL 31 1943

Detroit Quiet, But Workers Stay Off Jobs

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.
JUN 22 1943

The nation's war production felt the effects today of two major crises on the home front:

In the Detroit area, after a 24-hour reign of race riot terror, absenteeism among Negro workers slowed down arms output at Ford, Chrysler and other war plants.

In the iron and steel production centers blast furnaces were closing because of the lack of coal and coke. Furnaces in the Pittsburgh area were hardest hit, while reports from other centers indicated that furnaces would be able to operate only a few days on the present supply of coal.

Meanwhile, the WPB revealed the strike had forced it to postpone a drive to increase steel production to meet boosted military and naval demands.

JUN 22 1943

By ANTHONY G. DE LORENZO,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

DETROIT, June 22.—Steel-helmeted, motorized army troops restored order to Detroit today after violent race riots, but production slumped in war plants because of a heavy rate of absenteeism among Negro workers.

Army detachments in battle dress bivouacked at intervals along a two-mile stretch of Woodward Ave., the city's main thoroughfare, and mobile units—light tanks, jeeps and armored cars—rolled through narrower streets of the Negro section with guns loaded and orders to "use them—if necessary."

JUN 22 1943

At the height of the riots members of a Negro quartermaster's battalion tried to obtain ammunition and trucks at nearby Fort Custer to "assist their families" at Detroit. They were intercepted by military authorities and five were confined to the post stockade for investigation.

United States troops moved into the city shortly before midnight under direct orders from President Roosevelt to halt rioting Negro and white mobsters whose 24-hour reign of terror left 26 persons dead, nearly 700 injured and thousands of dollars of property damage. Tension seemed to vanish with arrival of the khaki-clad soldiers.

Governor Kelly said reports from state and city police and federal authorities were "very good" this morning. Last violence, he said, was reported at 4:30 a. m., when a Negro was killed while looting a store.

Traffic Courts began meting out swift justice to the more than 600 persons arrested. Twenty-one young Negroes were given sentences of 90 days each for disturbing the peace. They and two others, who were acquitted, were accused of stoning cars carrying white persons.

50 Per Cent Absentees.

Production in Detroit's busy war plants, curtailed yesterday by disrupted transportation services, still was hampered today by absenteeism of Negro workers. The Ford Motor Co. reported that "several thousand" Negroes—approximately 35 per cent of its foundry personnel — remained away from work today.

JUN 22 1943

General Motors reported its production undiminished despite the fact that "more than 50 per cent" of its Negro employees failed to report today. Its spokesman said other workers picked up the slack and kept production at normal levels.

The Packard Motor Car Co., scene three weeks ago of a strike by white employees protesting upgrading of Negro workers, said there were fewer absentees among Negro employees today.

JUN 22 1943

Chrysler Corp. reported that absenteeism at its Dodge plant, which employs many Negro workers, amounted to nearly 35 per cent. Briggs Manufacturing Co.

FIRST LADY TALKS ON DETROIT RIOTS

Times
New York, N. Y.
JUL 1 1943

Says Letters Accused Her of Fomenting Race Conflicts

WASHINGTON, June 30 (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told her press conference today that since the Detroit race riots she had received many letters and read editorials accusing her of having fomented the trouble because of her good-will attitude toward Negroes.

She expressed the opinion that there must be both white and colored people of good-will and common sense to prevent race riots.

She stated that she cancelled a visit to Detroit this week because the scheduled inspection of child-care projects was "not important enough to insist on doing it now when there was something else I wanted to do."

She said she was "anxiously waiting" to hear an alternative plan advanced to keep inflation down since the President's proposed program of subsidies for price rollbacks was rejected by Congress.

JUL 1 1943

Opposing compulsory savings, she said:

"I would rather pay taxes than compulsory savings, and let people have the satisfaction of voluntary savings in which they take pride."

U. S. Troops End Detroit Rioting

Tribune
Chicago, Ill.

By United Press.

DETROIT, June 22.—Federal troops in full battle regalia—armored equipment and powerful guns—restored order in Detroit today after the nation's worst civil disturbance since the First World War.

JUN 22 1943

They moved into the city on direct orders from President Roosevelt to quell rioting bands of Negro and white mobsters whose 24-hour reign of terror resulted in the death of 25 persons, injury to nearly 700 others and wanton destruction of property.

The presidential orders, issued at the request of Gov. Harry F. Kelly, whose declaration of a state of emergency was ignored by the rioters, commanded all persons engaged in "unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings" to disperse and return to their homes at once.

Ordered To Halt Rioting

Almost simultaneously Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced at Washington that he had directed Maj. Gen. Henry S. Aurand, commanding the Sixth Service Command at Chicago, to use troops to suppress the disturbances.

JUN 22 1943

But even before orders of Mr. Roosevelt and Stimson were made public 1100 Federal troops swung up Woodward-av — Detroit's main thoroughfare—and into debris-littered "Paradise Valley"—the city's shabby Negro quarters.

With fixed bayonets the soldiers marched slowly behind armored cars whose machine guns were trained upon second story windows from which there had been sniping earlier in the evening. Within a few minutes streets were cleared and peace was restored. However, the streets still bore evidence of the rioting—overturned and demolished cars and trucks, looted shops, broken glass and bloody remnants of clothing scattered almost everywhere.

Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, in charge of Federal troops here, said 1200 additional soldiers were being held in reserve at Fort Wayne and Selfridge Field, Mich. Detroit's 3500 weary city police force, it was to be joined today by 1500 state troopers from as far north as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and by Michigan Guardsmen mobilized by the governor.

JUN 22 1943

The death toll reached 25—22 Negroes and three white—shortly before midnight with at least 15 of the victims reportedly slain by police. Dr. Austin Z. Howard, chief surgeon at receiving hospital, which alone treated more than 500 of the injured, described the rioting as the "worst calamity" in Detroit's history.

Starts With Fist Fight

The fighting began Sunday night shortly before midnight under on the bridge to Belle Isle Park—an island off the east side of the city—with a fist fight between a Negro and a white man. The rioting continued until it reached full battle proportions yesterday.

Kelly's state of emergency proclamation ordered everyone, except those going to and from work in Detroit's busy war plants, to observe a 10 p. m. curfew. Bar rooms and places of amusement, including theaters, were closed until "further notice." However, thousands of persons—whites and Negroes—ignored the curfew until Federal troops arrived.

JUN 22 1943

There were pitched battles everywhere despite police efforts to disperse rioters with tear gas and gunfire. Houses were burned, automobiles and trucks overturned, store windows smashed and shops looted. The pavements along the two-mile square north of City Hall and east of Woodward-av were blood-stained.

Police Use Tear Gas

Biggest fight of the riot saw 200 state and local police dislodge Negroes who had been sniping at them with shotguns and revolvers from upper windows of a downtown apartment building. Police returned the gunfire and tossed dozens of tear gas bombs through the windows. The battle raged for two and a half hours before the Negroes surrendered. When the smoke and tear gas fumes had cleared two Negroes were found dead and one policeman was seriously injured.

JUN 22 1943

The riotings, the worst since a reign of terror brought death to 33 persons in East St. Louis, Ill., on July 2, 1917, filled hospitals and prisons with battered and bruised Negroes and whites. Authorities estimated that beside the 700 injured, there were almost as many jammed into the city's prisons and police stations.

Population Has Grown

In the last census, of the total population of 1,623,452, Negroes accounted for 149,119. But the figures have grown proportionately with the boom of war prosperity and the population of the metropolitan area now is estimated at 2,500,000.

Civil authorities tried all means to break the riots, calling in all available city and state police and civilian defense workers before appealing to Federal aid.

JUN 22 1943

Governor Kelly, who flew here from the Governors' Conference at Columbus, O., to take charge of the situation, even appealed to Detroit's citizens by radio. But his efforts were in vain.

Then Battle Started

As if in disregard to his appeal, the gun battle between police and Negro snipers began in the apartment house.

Whenever police rescued a Negro from the mobs, the latter jeered the officers.

In front of the City Hall a gangfit and he saved a couple of lives. were futile as the sn of white youths began to close in. Besides you guys are stirring up times gangs forced t on a Negro. Three sailors, none of something that we're trying to stop." surrender white perso

Many Die In Streets

Nearly half the victims died at Receiving Hospital while others suc- police to shieldcumbed in ambulances en route to ned by mobs mostly the hospital and several were found them back. Several dead in the streets. One Negro was the sneer weight of found dead in a theater with six rced the officers to bullets in his body and a white man persons who had was found shot to death in the

JUN 22 1943

JUN 22 1943

JUN 22 1943

Recall Negro Hero

Attempts by police
"Plenty!" barked the sailor. Negroes threatened b
"There was a colored guy in our out-numbers forced them
taunting aged Negroe
"What's it to you?" snapped one hunted Negroes were
of the mobsters. beaten severely.

Negro section.

Among those seriously injured were two city patrolmen who were shot while in the Negro district attempting to quell one of the riots.

Police still were attempting to learn the reason for the abnormally large number of Negroes at Belle Isle when the fighting started Sunday. It was estimated that there were nearly 90,000 Negroes and only 10,000 whites in the park that day. While many Negroes normally use the park, police said the ratio appeared to be "somewhat out of proportion."

Martial Law Clamped Upon Michigan City

19 Persons Die, 500 Are Injured In 24 Hours Race Riot In Detroit

DETROIT, June 21.—(AP)—Federal troops were reported authoritatively tonight to be entering Detroit at the request of Gov. Harry F. Kelly in an effort to stop race riots in which 19 persons have lost their lives, over 500 suffered injuries, and an extensive area of this "arsenal city" was being roamed by bands of marauders 24 hours after the first outbreaks.

Gov. Kelly, proclaiming a state of emergency, announced that the "armed forces of the State of Michigan" would "aid and assist" the civil authorities in maintaining law and order.

As the death toll mounted tonight, the first woman fatality was recorded. That victim was a young negress who was killed near her home by a flying brick. Of the 14 dead, 11 were negroes.

Not alone was Detroit covered by the Governor's order. All three counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb—the so-called "metropolitan area" with more than 2,000,000 inhabitants—were included. Detroit is in Wayne County. Including its suburbs, it has 1,600,000 residents.

The Governor's proclamation, first reported from his conference with city authorities as declaring "martial law," clamped a lid on places of amusements and established a 10 p.m. curfew.

Martial law would have meant that the military would take full control of all governmental functions. Under military rule, the military serves only in an assisting capacity.

Fighting meanwhile continued. A crowd of about 3,000 milled about Cadillac Square in downtown Detroit before the city hall. Police seemed unable to keep control. A number of beatings of negroes by white persons were reported.

From time to time in the early evening, when Detroiters are accustomed to promenade on Washington Boulevard and window shop, police sirens screamed as squad cars rushed to answer reports of fresh violence.

Broadway Leaders Express Shame Over Anti-Negro Riots

The Worker

New York, N. Y. By David Platt

All of Broadway is seething with anger over the fifth-column inspired Detroit race riot which has stunned the nation and given us our worht setback since Pearl Harbor. The common feeling on the stem is that the Government must take a strong hand to stamp out the fifth column, the breeders of disunity, the appeasers and defeatists who are responsible for the outrage.

Proctor, publicity representative of the American Theatre Wing's Lunch Time Follies expressed the feeling of almost every theatre worker on Broadway when he said "it is up to the FBI to now name names in this case and ferret out these unquestionable agents of Hitler and expose them." These conscious agents of Hitler "must be named, exposed, prosecuted and tried for treason," Proctor said. "These are the main enemies of the home front. If we do not win the home front, the other front is in great danger. Theatre people who have fought for Negro equality and democracy for many years must express their point of view affirmatively on this issue."

Race Riots Terrible Commentary on Democracy

Brock Pemberton, producer of "Janie" and member of the Board of Directors of the American Theatre Wing called the riots a "terrible commentary on democracy" and was shocked that such a thing "could happen to any minority in a supposedly civilized age." Pemberton said he hoped it will not greatly affect our war program." However, it is bound to hurt our war effort, he added. "We can only hope there will be no repetition in the rest of America."

Joey Faye, star of Boy Meets Girl said the race riot must have been organized by the fifth column or "it could not have flared up that way."

Faye said they picked on Detroit, the biggest city in the country turning out war armaments. "They see white and Negroes working shoulder to shoulder and this organized fifth column figured here is a good place to start disruption. So they used this method to split the minds of the workers."

Faye agreed with almost everybody else on Broadway that the fifth column must be stopped "or our war effort in our largest industrial city will stop and we will lose the war."

J. J. Leventhal, co-producer of Native Son, Counterattack and Cry Havoc expressed surprise that the Government failed to take the proper precautions to prevent a race riot in the "home town for hatred, faseism, race riots, beginning with Father Coughlin, and the Ku Klux Klan."

Leventhal said that the Government should have stepped into this hotbed of fascism long ago. "The reactionaries have had a roman holiday in Detroit for years. The German fifth column has been sabotaging in Detroit for years. Let's hope that our government will see that no more of this happens."

Canada Lee Says Government Must Act

Canada Lee, star of Native Son was deeply grieved and was afraid the trouble would spread to New York if "we permitted a situation conducive to stirring up racial hatreds among us."

He said the riots are Axis inspired, the work of the fifth column. The Government must put its foot down."

Canada Lee's feelings were seconded by Alex Cohen, co-producer of Angel Street who said:

"It may spread to New York if we are not careful. It must be dealt with firmly and the Axis agents who started this should be shot as fifth columnists. It is horrible what it will do to our war unity. It kicks hell out of our war effort. What will our soldiers think? Here they are fighting in Africa and here we are fighting among ourselves in America."

Jack Smart, musical comedy star of "Dancing in the Streets" felt that the fifth column here had done a very thorough job. "This propaganda—like propaganda for Berlin." These are things we can look forward to if we do not help our Negro brothers," Smart declared. "If race riots get out of hand and become more widespread it can only hinder our war effort irreparably." Smart said the situation must be quickly handled intelligently "or it will create disunity and anything that makes us digress from the war effort slows down American victory."

A Child Speaks

Daily Worker Chicago, Ill.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I write this letter with shame and sorrow for my country America. After reading the accounts of the race riots in Detroit, I think it is my duty to raise my voice, for the children of America, in protest against these riots. For the children of America should have something to say in this matter and believe me they do. Everywhere in school there is talk about those terrible riots.

But we are puzzled. In school we have been taught about Abraham Lincoln and the fight for Negro Freedom. Have the adults in America forgotten this great man? Have they forgotten the lines:

"For a man in a white skin can never be free
While his brother in black is still in slavery?"

Have they forgotten that millions of Negro boys are fighting and dying for them? What are they fighting for? Not a bet every Negro boy has asked himself this question.

But to you Negro boy wherever you are land, sea or air, remember this. You are fighting for a country where the Negro will be free, for children like myself and adults like my mother and father will fight with you to make it free.

SHEILA MILLER, Age 12.

Two Detroit Youths Tell Police Of Killing Negro in Cold Blood

By the Associated Press

Detroit, July 30.—Prosecutor William E. Dowling said today two of four white youths held by police have told him they stoned to death, accounted for the 34 persons slaying of Moses Kiska, 58-year-old Negro shot down as he waited for a streetcar at Mack Avenue and Cherle Street, June 21.

Police today also identified Tipton, Negro described by Dowling as a "key figure" in the riots. The prosecutor said Tipton seized a public address microphone at a gathering of 500 Negroes late the evening of June 20 and shouted to them:

"Everybody knows me on; there is a colored lady and her baby." Tipton will be charged with inciting to riot, Dowling said.

Spread of this false rumor through the Negro district, police have said, was largely responsible for swelling the rioting to proportions where it caused the death of the 34 persons.

The Kiska slaying was one of 13 riot deaths listed as unsolved.

Dowling said this was the way he got the story from Trani and Mastantuano:

"Trani and Mastantuano were at one of the car and stopped at one of Kiska grab his chest and topple over. They drove away, and then separated."

Formal charges against Mastantuano were withheld pending Dowling continued questioning of the other youths held.

RACE RIOT CHARGES MAKES

DETROIT, July 28 (U.P.)—The defending Dowling's position, prosecution for the Administration duced records purporting to show Colored People today that more than twice as many persons as Negroes were injured during the riots.

William E. Dowling, prosecutor, "nonfeasance, misfeasance and jured during the riots. He said that of-56 per cent of the city's major crimes are committed by Negroes the total population.

Group to Aid Colored People for Detroit Officials

forced," the statement read.

Commissioner Witherspoon, in

Puts Onus on Detroit Officials

Witherspoon backed "Dowling's groups helped instigate the city's June 21 riots, and answering his charges that the association and Negro press were largely be-

"Dowling's intemperate outburst reveals one of the reasons for the withheld a riot—the miserable failure of law-enforcement officials to do their job and then attempt to excuse their dereliction by blaming trouble on those who have pleaded for years that the laws be en-

Commissioner Witherspoon, in the statement read.

"Mastantuano ha Mack and Chene t waiting in the s Trani said 'Give me and 'Blackie. in the car and de us some niggers.

"Dowling's intemperate outburst reveals one of the reasons for the withheld a riot—the miserable failure of law-enforcement officials to do their job and then attempt to excuse their dereliction by blaming trouble on those who have pleaded for years that the laws be en-

Commissioner Witherspoon, in the statement read.

15 Die, 500 Hurt In Detroit Race War; Military Rule Ordered As Riots Flare

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

JUN 22 1943



AP Wirephoto.

CARS ENTERING FIGHTING ZONES in Detroit's Negro-white race riot area yesterday were overturned, as illustrated. There were some fatalities, numerous injuries. Michigan's Gov. Harry Kelly ordered out state police and troops.

JUN 22 1943

State Guards, Army Police Patrol Three-County Area; 10 P.M. Curfew Established

JUN 22 1943

By the Associated Press.

Detroit, June 21.—Military rule was imposed on Detroit tonight in an attempt to stop race violence in which fifteen persons were killed—eight of them by police—and more than 500 injured. Bands of marauders were roaming this "arsenal city" twenty hours after the first outbreaks.

Gov. Harry F. Kelly, proclaiming a state of emergency, announced that the "armed forces of the State of Michigan" would "aid and assist" the civil authorities in maintaining law and order.

As the death toll mounted tonight, the first woman fatality was recorded. She was a young Negress who was killed near her home by a flying brick. Of the fifteen dead, twelve were Negroes.

Martial Law Not Declared.

Not only Detroit was covered by the Governor's order. All three counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb—the so-called "metropolitan area," with more than 2,000,000 inhabitants—were included. Detroit is in Wayne County. Including its suburbs, it has 1,600,000 residents.

The Governor's proclamation, first reported from his conference with city authorities as declaring "martial law," clamped a lid on places of amusements and established a 10 p.m. curfew.

Martial law would have meant that the military would take full control of all governmental functions. Under military rule, the military serves only in an assisting capacity.

Many Negroes Beaten.

Fighting meanwhile continued. A crowd of about 3,000 milled about Cadillac Square in downtown Detroit before the City Hall. Police seemed unable to keep control. A number of beatings of Negroes by white persons were reported.

From time to time in the early evening, when Detroiters are accustomed to promenade on Washington Boulevard and window shop, police sirens screamed as squad cars rushed to answer reports of fresh violence.

White mobsters set fire to the homes of two Negro families and in a fight on a streetcar a Negro stabbed a white man.

A gang of white men, seeking to take two Negroes from the custody of police in a scout car, overturned the car and set it afire. The two Negroes and the police leaped to safety. The Negroes fled.

Three pictures dealing with the Detroit rioting are on the Picture Page.

Even as the Governor's proclamation was being framed, a military police battalion from Fort Custer had been taking stations in the city to assist State militia and the State and City forces.

Citizens Demand Action.

Governor Kelly, who hastened here earlier in the day from the Governors' Conference at Columbus, Ohio, issued his order in response to demands from citizens' groups.

Brig. Gen. William E. Gunther, head of military police for the Army's Sixth Service Command, arrived here late today. Governor Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries asked citizens tonight in radio broadcasts to do their utmost to prevent further rioting.

The total of dead as tonight reached 600 as law enforcement officers sought desperately to bring the situation under control.

Earlier in the day, when he originally had decided against martial law, Governor Kelly had said, "We've got to stop this today if we've ever going to."

Physician Killed.

One of the white persons to die was a physician who was pulled from his car while trying to answer a call in the riot vicinity off Woodward Avenue, on the city's arteries.

Shortly after issuing the proclamation, Kelly informed the public by radio address of the imposition of a 10 p.m. curfew with all inhabitants of the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb to be off the streets by that hour.

All places of amusement were ordered to close at 9 p.m. and "remain closed until further orders." Sale of alcoholic beverages was prohibited. So also were public assemblages.

The Governor also said that no persons except for "regular authorities" would be allowed to carry weapons."

On Woodward Avenue just north of the downtown business district this afternoon, youthful mobsters entered the rioting, attacking whites and Negroes indiscriminately, pulling trolleys off wires, and breaking windows in streetcars, buses and automobiles.

Tear Gas Used.

Tear gas was used in several instances to break up groups, one of them in Campus Martius just across Woodward Avenue from the City Hall.

Steel helmets and extra tear gas dispersal bombs were issued this afternoon to police patrolling the riot area. A section roughly three miles long extending east and north of downtown Detroit.

Today's rioting, police agreed, was touched off by an isolated fist fight late last night on the bridge that connects Belle Isle, recreational and swimming center in the Detroit River, with the city.

It spread swiftly, given impetus, some Negro leaders said, by an erroneous but widely believed report that a Negro woman and child were slain on Belle Isle last night.

Follows Other Incidents.

Several lesser outbreaks of racial friction have occurred in recent months in war-crowded Detroit, the most prominent halting war production and making more than 20,000 idle in the Packard Motor Car Company plant. State troops were called to Detroit a year ago last spring when rioting was threatened over Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth Housing Project here. They moved the Negroes into the new quarters without incident.

Production of war plants in this area was reported little affected by today's fighting, although the Ford Motor Company said hundreds of Negro workers left their jobs after receiving calls that they were needed at home. A Packard spokesman said production at its plant remained normal.

Fourteen elementary schools were closed as parents either kept their children home or went to get them. Two Hastings Street theaters suspended operations at the schools to get them. Two Hastings Street theaters suspended operations at the schools to get them. Two Hastings Street theaters suspended operations at the schools

Cars Burned.

In one hospital congestion was so great that a doctor's lecture room was hastily converted into an emergency ward and ten beds crowded into it.

At the height of the rioting at midday at least a half dozen automobilies driven by Negroes were overturned and burned along Woodward Avenue and adjoining streets and alleys.

Many of the rioters bore wounds from fighting during the night and early morning and the sight of men still fighting despite bandaged heads or arms in slings was not uncommon.

Officers at police headquarters were advised that a Negro mob was en route to attack the station. Riot guns and tear gas were hastily distributed but when the "mob" appeared—200 strong—it was a group of Negro civilian defense workers wearing official armbands and mobilized to aid in quelling the riot.

Police List Dead.

The police listed the dead as follows:

John Frailach, 43, white, found on street shot through the chest.

Billy Hardges, 27, Negro, shot by police who said he was looting.

Robert Davis, 29, Negro, shot by police.

Carl Singleton, 19, Negro, shot by police.

Anderson Ford, 43, Negro, shot by police.

Ray James Jackson, Negro, shot by police.

Dr. Joseph DeHoratiis, white, found fatally injured in his automobile in the riot district.

Samuel Johnson, 27, Negro, bled to death from cuts which police said he suffered while smashing a window.

John Bogan, 27, white, run down by hit-run car in midst of riot.

Unidentified Negro, shot in gun fight with police.

Marvin Rich, 30, Negro, shot by police.

Ernest James, 24, Negro, shot by police.

Mrs. Carrie Hackworth, 29, Negro, killed by flying brick near her home.

Unidentified Negro, found at rear of store, apparently killed by blow on the head.

Unidentified Negro, circumstances of death undetermined.

4 Youths Charged In Race Riot Slaying

Detroit, Aug. 3 (AP)—Murder charges were brought today against four white youths under arrest and two other unidentified, in connection with the race rioting here last June 21. The warrant was signed by Recorder's Judge John V. Brennan.

Charged with the slaying of Moses Kiska, shot from an automobile as he was waiting for a street car are Aldo Trani, 18; Anthony Saraceno, 19; Armando Mastantuono, 20, and Robert Cattone, 17.

According to Detective Sergeant Charles Buckholdt Trani has admitted shooting Kiska, a Negro, and firing at two other Negroes.

CURFEW STILL IN FORCE; DEATH TOLL IS NOW 28

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

SEED OF RIOTING TRACED TO 1916; DOUBT IT'S OVER

BY FRANK HUGHES.
[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Detroit, Mich., June 22.—Sullen and bitter intolerance smouldered in Detroit tonight as steel helmeted soldiers, bayonets mounted on their rifles patroled the streets of the Negro section.

"It's hurting our job in the war, and it isn't over. It's like a keg of dynamite with a short fuse. When the army leaves who knows what will happen?" These were the comments most frequently heard on Detroit streets tonight.

Whatever the direct cause of the racial flareup that set white men and Negroes at each others throats, all authorities, civil, sociological, religious, labor, and industrial, are agreed that Detroit's riots have been brewing for many years.

Doubts Communist Hand.

"We have no definite knowledge that any axis agents or propaganda inspired this trouble," Mayor Edward J. Jeffries said.

"If we did, those agents would be in jail. But if I were an axis agent I would be rubbing my hands in glee over this."

Communists in Detroit have worked among Negroes from time to time, he said, but he doubted that the riots were communist inspired.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who flew here from New York yesterday, said that the class and racial discontent inspired by communists when industrial unionism began moving into Detroit left a well plowed field for seeds of racial dispute.

Dates Back to 1916.

"Blit the Negro knows his own rights and he doesn't need communists to point them out to him," he added.

Both White and the Rev. Claude Williams, a minister employed by the war emergency division of the Presbyterian National Board of Missions here, said the large influx of southern whites and Negroes to Detroit in recent years formed the basis for the problem.

"The trouble dates back to 1916," White said. "There were 8,000 Negroes in Detroit then. In nine years the Negro population jumped more than 1,000 per cent to 85,000. People expected these 85,000 Negroes to live in the same houses that sheltered the 8,000.

Situation Aggravated.

"These Negroes came at the request of the industries who failed to provide shelter and accommodations for them. At the same time, a strong Ku Klux Klan movement grew in Detroit.

"In 1924 the Klan came close to electing a mayor. They whipped up anti-Negro sentiment. Sporadic racial conflicts followed.

"Now the situation is aggravated by overcrowding among both whites and Negroes, but especially the Negroes.

"Another factor is the vacillation of Washington, especially the housing authorities. First they built a large housing project dedicated to Sojourner Truth, a Negro poet of the Civil war. White elements protested against its use by Negroes, and the housing authorities decided to bar Negroes from it.

WMC Adds to Confusion.

"Then the Negroes complained and the government changed its stand. Riots broke out on Feb. 28, 1942, when Negroes were moved into these new homes."

White said the New Deal showed the same vacciliating policy when the Willow Run housing project started here, barring Negroes from occupancy after both the Ford Motor company and the United Automobile Workers' union asked that Negroes be given occupancy on the basis of need and employment.

"The war man power commission added its bit to the confusion," White said, "by encouraging immigration of labor to Detroit instead of using the local Negro labor that was here."

White said that there has been less discrimination against the Negroes in recent months because of the tight labor situation, but that friction has increased.

Play on Prejudices.

"The strike at the Packard plant here early this month was caused by the upgrading of three skilled Negroes," White said, "were inciting workers outside the plant fence, shouting 'I'd rather see Hitler and Hirohito win than work on an assembly line with a Negro.' I believe these men were Klansmen, despite the Klan's announcement that its Detroit chapter was closed last August."

White said that while the number of Klansmen here was probably small, they played upon the prejudices of the large southern white population which has moved into Detroit war jobs.

"There is no other way of preventing this kind of thing except for the responsible civic leaders, in churches, business, labor, and the newspapers to assume the responsibility of housing and employing the Negro population," White said. "The trouble here won't stop until they do. And it will start up in Chicago or any other section of the country unless these same leaders soberly and thoughtfully solve those problems."

Blames Intolerant Groups.

The Rev. Mr. Williams, who has been working with southern whites and Negroes in war plants for more tha na year, declared that he thought the riots were inspired by the "intolerance groups" who probably are being used by the Axis.

"The people of the world are predominnately colored," the Rev. Mr. Williams said. "The index of our progress is what we do with the Negr opeople. The defeat of fascism won't prevent fascism in America. We must reach the mass of the people—those not in the middle class—and we must reach them thru their recognized and accepted leaders."

Williams said that there are 2,500 "working preachers" in Detroit war plants, all of them southern whites who belong to "exotic" religious groups and fell the "call" to preach.

"These men are for the most part honest and cannot be bought," he said. "They are the real leaders of these southern people. But they are the prey of the intolerance groups, more than 800 of which are now flourishing in this country.

Economic Status Blamed.

"If we could influence these working preachers to preach tolerance and love instead of hat, we would be a long way toward solving the racial problems here."

The Rev. Mr. Williams included Gerald K. Smith's committee of a million, the Black legion, which he said is "not dead" and J. Frank Norris' church group in a list of intolerant sects operating here.

A prominent Detroit police official, who, because of the emergency, refused to allow use of his name, blamed the "economic situation" as well as the influx of southern whites and Negroes as underlying causes of the riots.

He said that both Negroes and whites have more money than ever before, that they work long hours and are "edgy," and have fewer places, other than saloons, in which to spend their earnings.

Disputes in Schools.

He told of numerous racial disputes in schools here recently, one of which ended in the stabbing of a white boy who had tried to get a Negro to fight with him.

This he blamed on war time conditions, children too young to join the army or navy who have a desire to fight anyhow, and children who are left in unsupervised homes by their war-employed parents.

Mayor Jeffries backed up this comment. "We're teaching people to fight," he said. "Well, they fought last night."

"Detroit has a population 90 per cent white and 10 per cent Negro," the mayor said. "They have had frequent clashes before, and this was one of the big ones."

Absenteeism Rises.

No industry spokesman would estimate how absenteeism in Detroit's war plants was affected by the race riots, but it was common knowledge that ranks of both white and Negro workers on the late shifts yesterday were decimated by those who stayed home either thru fear of leaving their homes or to watch or take part in the riots.

But with the army in control and no further street fighting reported today, it was believed that absenteeism was only slightly higher than normal.

The social reforms of the New Deal and its class conscious doctrines are blamed by some as factor in the rioting.

James A. Colescott, imperial wizard of the Klu Klux Klan in Atlanta, Ga., denied early this month that the Klan was still operating in Detroit, altho he said: "The Klan has no desire to run the unions. but the leadership in

GOVERNOR LIFTS DETROIT CURBS; TROOPS REMAIN

Detroit, Mich., June 28 (AP).—All emergency restrictions in effect in Detroit since the race rioting of week ago were lifted today by Gov. Harry F. Kelly and military authorities, 42 year old Negro, raised the official police count of riot fatalities to 33.

United States army troops that have been on riot duty, however, will remain in the city as a precautionary measure.

Amusement places and saloons are permitted to resume normal hours and bottled beer may be sold.

There has been no report of violence since the appearance of troops on the streets Monday night.

The death toll today of Chester Charles, Colescott said.

No less an authority than Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle accused the Klan of leading picketing at the Sojourner Truth riots and of burning

61-1943

Michigan

City Aroused as Prosecutor Assails Negro Press, Vetoes Grand Jury

By James A. Wechsler
PM's National Editor

PM New York, N. Y.
JUL 28 1943

DETROIT, July 28.—Detroit is still dynamite.

Racial tension enveloping this city emerged openly and ominously again today amid a bitter public row between Special Prosecutor William Dowling and Negro labor and liberal groups—with Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon jumping into the fray on Dowling's side.

It started Monday when Dowling rejected a plea from the Mayor's Committee on Interracial Peace for convening a grand jury to investigate the "unexplained deaths" in the race riot of June 21.

Blames Negroes

Dowling not only vetoed the grand jury proposal. He also told the Committee—according to a story in the Detroit *Free Press*, whose reporter was present at the session—that the National Assn. for the Advancement of the Colored People was the "biggest instigator of the recent race riots." He was quoted as denouncing the Negro press, as stating that Negroes were responsible for starting and spreading the riots.

Yesterday the other two Detroit newspapers picked up these charges, splashing them on Page 1. In mid-afternoon Rev. Horace White, liberal Negro minister, told a meeting of the Mayor's Interracial committee, set up to promote racial peace:

"I went down among the Negro people after those stories came out. It was as if a bomb had been dropped. The situation is what it was just before June 21."

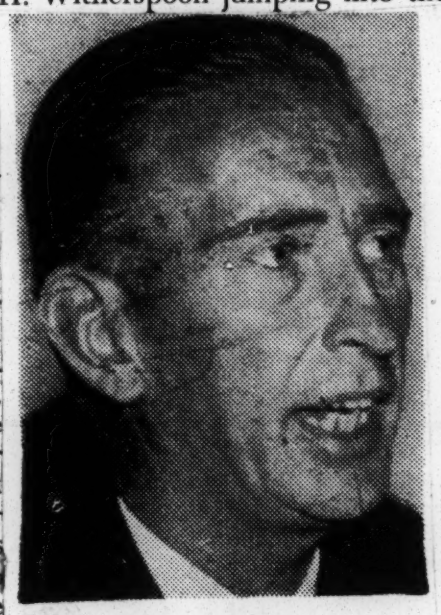
JUL 28 1943

Thomas' Warning

R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers, CIO, charged:

"Prosecutor William E. Dowling's statements are the most serious incitement to race riots that we have had since the riots themselves."

Reiterating demands for a grand jury investigation, Thomas said "it is obvious that Mr. Dowling's office is not the one to conduct the investigation." He proposed that the City of Detroit invite the American Bar Assn. to recommend a special prosecutor to supersede Dowling.



Mayor Jeffries

Walter White, national secretary of the NAACP, who arrived here shortly after publication of the Dowling story, issued a statement asserting:

"Dowling's intemperate outburst reveals one of the reasons for the riot—the miserable failure of law enforcement officials to do their job and then attempt to excuse their dereliction by blaming trouble on those who for years have pleaded that the laws be enforced."

JUL 28 1943

Submits Evidence

Simultaneously White submitted to Mayor Jeffries a detailed indictment of alleged misconduct by the Detroit police during the race clashes. White said the NAACP was ready to produce witnesses and affidavits to back up its report, which was prepared by Thurgood Marshall.

Late yesterday, after the headlines and the angry protests and the rumblings of new conflict, Dowling sought belatedly to ease the crisis. He denied that he had accused the NAACP of "instigating" the riots. But he renewed his attack on the Negro press, assailed the NAACP for defending "law violators" during the Sojourner Truth clashes last year, blamed the NAACP for "fomenting trouble with their crusades in Negro neighborhoods."

At about the same time that Dowling was issuing his second thought, William J. Norton, a member of the Interracial Subcommittee that interviewed Dowling Monday, was reporting to the full Committee that Dowling has said the NAACP had done much to "create the heated atmosphere which caused the intensity of the riots."

Damage Done

And Police Commissioner Witherspoon, whose force has been under sharp attack from Negro organizations for a long record of anti-Negro bias, seized the same moment to declare:

"Dowling's statements to the Committee were true and facts and figures bear him out."

Witherspoon said the NAACP was "detrimental" to law and order.

By that time the exact words of Dowling had ceased to matter. It was overwhelmingly clear that the damage had been done—that the dwindling confidence of the Negro community in local law enforcement officials had been shattered, that they considered themselves "convicted without a hearing," that the murmurings of new troubles had grown louder.

Record Praised

Supporters of Dowling said today that he did not know a reporter was in the room when he delivered his polemic. They pointed out that his past record on Negro problems was impressive, a fact which many Negro officials corroborate. They predicted that his forthcoming report to the governor would be far more temperate and balanced. They contended he had good legal grounds to oppose a grand jury inquiry at this moment.

JUL 28 1943

Negro Soldiers Sent to Prison

PM New York, N. Y.

Special Correspondence

FORT CUSTER, Mich., Sept. 15.—Three Negro soldiers accused of attempting to break into a post supply room to get weapons for the Detroit race riot June 21 have been sentenced to long prison terms at hard labor.

The sentence of a fourth soldier, Pvt. Herman George, of Detroit, to 15 years, was rescinded by a War Dept. reviewing board. He will be returned to active duty.

In the case of the three others, who will be dishonorably discharged, the board reduced from 18 to 10 years sentence of Staff Sgt. Lester Bowditch, Detroit, and from 15 to eight years the terms for Pvt. Ivory Williams, Buechel, Ky., and Pvt. Benjamin Johnson, Jr. Orange, N. J.

JUN 24 1943

DETROIT READY FOR ACTION

Times New York, N.Y.

Gov. Kelly Is Assured Troops Will Be There if Needed

Special to The New York Times.

DETROIT, Aug. 4—Governor Harry F. Kelly cut short his vacation at Mackinaw and came to Detroit today to investigate reports of new racial disorders here during the past few days.

AUG 5 1943

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries and Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon said they were alarmed by the outbreak of attacks by Negroes on whites, and they and other officials stated that the present situation was very similar to that which existed here a few days prior to the riots which started on June 21.

Times

After conferring with local officials, Governor Kelly was assured by the White House that the President's proclamation of a state of emergency in Detroit, issued at the time of the riots, was still in effect and that Federal troops were ready to move into the city.

AUG 5 1943

Riots Stir Debates Among Congressmen

News Birmingham, Ala.

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Detroit's recent race riots stirred short-lived but tempestuous debate in the House Wednesday on a variety of issues.

JUN 24 1943

The flurry of one-minute speeches ended only after Majority Leader McCormack declared that the situation "is bad enough without making it worse" and urged the members to refrain from "statements that will aggravate the situation."

It was touched off when Rep. Dickstein (D., N. Y.), chairman of the immigration committee, asserted that "the riots in Michigan must be great comfort to the Nazi government and the Axis countries."

He said that two years ago he had called upon the Dies committee on un-American activities to investigate the operations of the Ku Klux Klan in Michigan but that "nothing was done although the committee investigated nearly every other organization."

Rep. Starnes (D., Ala.), a member of the Dies committee, retorted that Dickstein had "misstated the facts," that the K. K. K. had been investigated thoroughly and that the committee found the organization had only 10,000 paid members throughout the country at the time.

JUN 24 1943

RIOT RESTRICTIONS EASED IN DETROIT; DEATH TOLL NOW 29

Birmingham Post, Birmingham, Alabama

By Jerry Rideout

United Press Staff Correspondent

DETROIT, June 23.—Federal troops and police still guarded Detroit's battered Negro district today as Gov. Harry F. Kelly lifted two restrictions included in his state-of emergency order issued at height of Monday's race riots.

The two-day death toll stood at 29—25 Negroes and four whites. A Negro died in a hospital of a bullet wound received Monday, but no further deaths resulted from minor disturbances last night in which one Negro was wounded by a trooper.

Soldiers and police patroled the Negro section where homes, stores and automobiles were smashed and burned in the nation's worst racebaseball doubleheader between Cleveland and Detroit at Briggs Stadium today as the race meet program scheduled at the Detroit fairgrounds.

Both had been called off yesterday.

Other restrictions, including the ban on the sale of liquor and the 10 p. m. curfew, will remain in force until further notice, Kelly permitted 23 taverns to be ordered closed by 9:15 p. m. today, but were ordered to permit patrons to be home by 10 p. m.

War Work Affected

It was feared that the outbreak would continue to affect production in many of the city's war plants.

Police estimated damage would run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the Ku Klux Klan and "Nazi agents were reported money" circulating here had "something to do with inciting the riots," boosting the total over previously reported and expressed apprehension over what may happen when the soldiers were not available in the event court action would be taken against those involved in the riots.

Damage Runs High

Arrival of the troops late Monday night, which started with a fist fight between a Negro and a white man on a Belle Isle bridge Sunday night.

Michigan State Guard forces were being prepared to relieve the soldiers and were ordered into the city by President Roosevelt at Governor Kelly's request.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries and Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon said they were alarmed by the outbreak of attacks by Negroes on whites, and they and other officials stated that the present situation was very similar to that which existed here a few days prior to the riots which started on June 21.

Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Corp. and General Motors Corp., struck today and

Governor Tours Area

Kelly said after a two-hour tour by plane of the riot area that he was "pleased with the cooperation being shown by the public." As a result, he said, emergency restrictions will be lifted sufficiently by police early today to permit the 1250 taverns in the area to reopen at 7 a. m. (EWT) tomorrow.

of Investigation chief here, discounted charges that the outbreaks were instigated by Axis agents. He added, however, that the FBI is "keeping in close touch with the situation" and is sending reports on all developments to its Washington headquarters.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries Jr. said he hoped White was "mistaken" in his belief the situation remained explosive.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



It is interesting and encouraging to note that, as of the date of the Detroit race riot, President Roosevelt has adopted a new policy regarding unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings.

President Roosevelt is against them now. In recent times he was indifferent to unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings in that same city of Detroit and elsewhere in the state of Michigan.

For the riots in the centers of the motor industry under the auspices of the CIO were no less unlawful and insurrectionary than the more recent trouble in Detroit, and the worst offense that the President could see in them was multiple trespass in the so-called sitdown strike which was not, in fact, a sitdown but mass vandalism and pillage, accompanied by bloodshed and general public terror and the breakdown of municipal and state government, all directed from a central headquarters and executed by riot leaders appointed for that purpose, many of whom were imported from other states.

Those unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings laid whole cities helpless at the feet of criminal terrorists who belonged to the President's political movement and the law-abiding people, who, of course, vastly outnumbered the rioters, were deprived of the protection of government. In the end, the leaders of the insurrection got their way and certain of them have since been courted and consulted by the very government which they were allowed to flout on matters having to do with the fight of the American people to establish the Four Freedoms everywhere in the world.

It is no answer to all this to say that it is water over the dam because it happened some years ago and in a time of peace. The record remains and it is the worse because Mr. Roosevelt's attitude toward that lawlessness and insurrection was such that he rewarded the defaulting Governor with a place on the Supreme Court of the United States.

One of the freedoms to which the President has pledged the nation is freedom from fear.

This means, specifically the fear of lawless aggression and brutalitarian might which was the very thing that terrorized those Michigan committees in those days and drove thousands of law-abiding citizens into a lawless organization which the President encouraged, under outlaw leaders for whom he had not the slightest rebuke. There still exists a long record of moving pictures taken from plant windows showing men and women under attack by members of this lawless and insurrectionary force as they tried to go to their lawful employment. It shows these rioters carrying cudgels, rioters slugging defenseless citizens whose government had abandoned them to the fury of the mob, rioters blockading the streets so that even the bravest of the good citizens could not go to their jobs.

In the end they had to join the lawless and insurrectionary group, pay taxes into its treasury and submit themselves to its own laws and discipline because the rule of fear had been imposed on them with the consent of the same government which now undertakes to guarantee to all the peoples of the world that they need fear no aggression by the mighty. And it has been fear of the same brutal treatment, even violent death, which has forced millions of free Americans, all over the United States, to abandon their rights and dignity as free human beings and citizens and pay hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes and extortions to the conorts of Mr. Roosevelt's political movement.

There is a temptation to say, and some have said, that this was a good insurrection even though it may have been slightly lawless around the edges because it was an action in a class war. Even if it had been such it still would have been a lawless insurrection, no less evil than a fight between races, but it was not a class war. It was a completely lawless and violent overthrow of government whose victims were almost all plain toilers of the group known as the working class, and that demonstration under the license of the government's connivance and default put most of the rest of the people into such fear that elsewhere, by the million they have not even resisted.

Every day I receive letters from victims of this terror, some of them with sons fighting to extend the Four Freedoms, including that freedom from fear, to all the peoples of the world who, in unconscious irony, close with the earnest request: "Do not disclose my name or I might lose my job or even my life."

Detroit Nears Normalcy In Riot Case; Bans Lifted

DETROIT, June 24.—(U.P.)—Conditions in riot-torn Detroit returned nearly to normal tonight as further emergency restrictions were lifted and authorities pressed punishment of minor offenders and laid the ground work for stringent prosecution of riot leaders.

It was reported investigations into the bitter race fighting, which took 31 lives and resulted in more than 1,300 arrests, would include mental examinations for at least 1,000 of those taken into custody.

In more immediate action, recorder's court composed sentences on more than 150 misdemeanants, including at least 100 given maximum 90-day penalties for disturbing the peace. In addition, 167 persons were named in felony warrants recommended by Prosecutor William E. Dowling.

Heading attempts to apprehend leaders of the riots was a four-man fact-finding committee appointed yesterday by Gov. Harry F. Kelly. Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, in charge of federal troops in the area, named an observer to the committee.

Kelly, in easing provisions of Monday's state of emergency proclamation, said conditions had returned "nearly to normal" but indicated federal and State troops and State police would remain "until there is no further threat of trouble."

Today's action by the governor included changing of the curfew from 10 p.m. to midnight, permitting sale of liquor by the glass between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., and lifting of all emergency restrictions in outlying Oakland and Macomb Counties.

War plant production was normal today. The Ford Motor Company reported negro absenteeism "no greater than usual" and General Motors and Chrysler Corporations issued similar statements.

A strike of 1,300 men at the Ford River Rouge plant, called yesterday to protest disciplinary action against participants in an earlier walkout, "the riots in Detroit must be ended when all men returned to their jobs pending arbitration of their differences with the company. Federal troops guarded the plant for several hours last

Lady Blames Fears, Rumors for Race Riots

Louisville, Ky., Courier-Journal

Washington, June 30 (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt asserted today that the danger of race riots such as occurred in Detroit could be materially lessened if individuals both inflammatory rumors and stop unreasoning

Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference that since the Detroit President's proposed program of has received many subsidies for price rollbacks was read editorials accus- rejected by Congress. having fomented the Opposing compulsory savings, feet riots because of she said: will attitude toward "I would rather pay taxes than osevelt said compulsory savings, and let must be both white people have the satisfaction of d people of goodwill voluntary savings in which they on sense to prevent take pride."

With no more press conferences scheduled for the summer, Mrs. Roosevelt said she expected to spend a good deal of time at

Cancels Detroit Trip.

She explained that she canceled a visit to Detroit this week because the scheduled inspection of child care projects was "not important enough to insist on rest," she smiled.

"But I'm not going to just doing what I had to do." China or South America, Mrs. something else" was. Asked whether she might visit She did not state what the Roosevelt said she had no plans at present about going to China "something else" was. or elsewhere.

Other recent mail from the public included letters complaining of the growing cost of living, Mrs. Roosevelt said.

The First Lady declared she was "anxiously waiting" to hear an alternative plan advanced to

Rabbis Urge Of Riots Be Investigated

Tution urging that a competent every community, to proceed authority investigate the social forthwith to uncover these evils and economic causes of the De- and injustices which have been troit riot and that all those found fathering for some time and guilty be brought to justice was which have led to these tragic adopted today by the Central consequences."

Conference of American Rabbis. Asserting that through the riot- kelly named a fact-finding committee and ordered it to conduct a thorough inquiry.

"the spirit of Hitlerism has achieved a triumph on American soil and in this tragic outbreak has scored a victory against the forces of democracy," the resolution called upon "men of good will, both white and Negro initiatives, announced that his group would investigate the Detroit race "combined operations" of foreign riots in public meetings, starting next week, and domestic propaganda groups.)

(He said the hearings, originally called to inquire into Japanese activities and the method of releasing Japanese from internment camps, would be broadened as a result of reports by committee investigators indicating that the Detroit rioting resulted from

(In Washington, Chairman Dies, (D., Texas) of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, announced that he had ordered a preliminary inquiry into the Detroit race riots.)

Dies to Probe Riots.

Assertion that the Detroit riot was "not a spontaneous outbreak" but was "carefully planned and executed by Axis agents" was made today by Rep. John E. Rankin, (D., Miss.), in a speech prepared for delivery in the House.

Rankin said the riot was "the most shameful exhibition of this war," was in fact actively promoted, organized and carried out by agents of the Ku Klux Klan, or its successor body in Detroit."

First Lady Calls Detroit Riot Comfort to Nazis

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Representative Dickstein (D., N. Y.) charged on the House floor today that the Ku Klux Klan now is operating under the name of the "Two years ago I asked the Dies Committee to investigate the Klan in Michigan." Mr. Dickstein said,

Detroit Nears Normalcy In Riot Case; Bans Lifted

JUN 25 1943

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Federal troops guarded plant for several hours last night, but were withdrawn when no trouble occurred.

JUN 25 1943

Gadsden, Ala. Times

June 24, 1943

Klan Accused Of Instigating Packard Strike

DETROIT, June 7.—(AP)—Production of aviation and marine engines at the Packard Motor Car Co. was reported back to near normal today as Army authorities sought the instigators of a strike over a racial dispute there and a union leader charged that he had "absolute evidence" that the strike "agents of the Ku Klux Klan, acting for the Axis."

Automobile Workers (CIO), who said he was submitting his evidence to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that he would also ask an investigation by the Civil Liberties Committee of the Senate.

Thomas told a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here that he had come into possession of "further and absolute evidence that the strike at Packard, one of the most shameful exhibitions of this war, was in fact actively promoted, organized and carried out by agents of the Ku Klux Klan," or its successor body in Detroit."

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JUN 25 1943

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It is no answer to all this to say that it is water over the dam because it happened some years ago and in a time of peace. The record remains and it is the worse because Mr. Roosevelt's attitude toward that lawlessness and insurrection was such that he rewarded the defaulting Governor with a place on the Supreme Court of the United States.

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This means, specifically the fear of lawless aggression and brutalitarian might which was the very thing that terrorized those Michigan communities in those days, and drove thousands of law-abiding citizens into a lawless organization which the President encouraged, under outlaw leaders for whom he had not the slightest rebuke. There still exists a long record of moving pictures taken from plant windows showing men and women under attack by members of this lawless and insurrectionary force as they tried to go to their lawful employment. It shows these rioters carrying cudgels, rioters slugging defenseless citizens whose government had abandoned them to the fury of the mob, rioters blockading the streets so that even the bravest of the good citizens could not go to their jobs.

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This Country Must Fight Mob Passion

The darkest blot upon our wartime domestic history now has hardened to a perpetual stain, and the orgy in Detroit is ended. [illegible] causes are still a mystery, but whether [illegible] citers were paid or purely amateur fifth-columnists is immaterial. Their work must earn the enthusiastic praise of all of our enemies, whether it came as a free gift or in return for the modern equivalent of 30 pieces silver.

What is important is the terrible revelation of dark depths of fear and mistrust underlying the crowding and confusion which have characterized Detroit's chaotic expansion. Left to themselves these might have sunk in time out of sight and presently out of mind. Instead, they have been churned by every eager, ignorant hand that could throw a stone. White breeders of hatred and mistrust such as the loathsome Ku Klux Klan minor league agitators and lunatic fringe politicians have worked assiduously in Detroit. Negro hot-heads and their white friends have done the Negro people a cruel disservice in insisting to them that executive orders upheld by force could do more for their advancement than the orderly processes of public enlightenment. Courier-Journal

The result is now obvious. Both groups have done their utmost, and Detroit may count their success in her toll of dead and wounded. It is useless now to say that the whole outburst should be investigated and that the guilty should be brought to justice. In an affair such as this, no investigation reveals what happened and the guilty never can be apprehended. A handful of victims of their own prejudices may be jailed or even executed, but the sharp, lying minds behind the victims are never brought to book. Louisville Ky.

JUN 23 1943

But if these deaths and these wounded, this cruel sight of hatred running naked through the streets of an American city, can arouse us to a realization of how explosive are the tensions which can be stretched between human beings, perhaps the horror of Detroit will not have been wholly in vain. The great majority of the American people ignore both the tensions and their potentialities until, as now, it is too late. The least this majority of us can do now is to resolve that what happened at Detroit will never happen elsewhere. Responsible citizens in any community threatened with such an outbreak must demand at once, and keep demanding, that their local and state officials call for the impartiality of federal intervention. Detroit's police were powerless to quiet the mob and, since they are human, they could not possibly have behaved with the calmness and the lack of passion which alone might have had effect. The Mayor of Detroit, the Governor of Michigan, had no right to permit a riot to continue for twenty-four hours before calling for federal aid. The citizens of other states should know, here and now, that if, God forbid, they ever face a similar breakdown of law enforcement, troops must stifle it in its beginnings and not after an orgy of bloodshed and destruction.

Furthermore, this majority of decent Americans must counteract both the lies of the white agitators and the magnified rumors and constant incitements of a minority of Negro speakers and a majority of the Negro press. Ridicule and the truth are powerful weapons against white instigators of racial hatred. And a concerted demand from the majority of progessive and respectable Negro Americans for news and speeches which stress community between the races instead of hammering upon instances and rumors of discrimination, will bring results. These Negro Americans and white friends of the Negro everywhere must realize with sick hearts today that in any such trial of strength by force as was fomented in Detroit, it is always the Negro who loses, who is slain and beaten and embittered. Without in any way excusing the white criminals and hooligans who held sway in Detroit on Sunday and Monday, we urge the Negro press and people to realize the cost in blood and tears of the sort of campaign of hatred and sneers that a minority of Negroes has fostered in recent months. What has the campaign gained the Negroes of Detroit? What has it cost the majority of progressive, self-respecting Negroes throughout the United States?

JUN 22 1943

Detroit Still a Powder Keg.

Bee
Chicago, Ill.

MANY competent observers have concluded that unless the underlying causes of the recent Detroit riot are treated soon, trouble there may recur once the soldiers are removed.

Attorney General Biddle intimated in the Eastern Conference of Federal District Attorneys held in Philadelphia, that the authorities in Detroit [illegible] saw the recent rioting there and did nothing about it. He further expressed the opinion that colored people are beginning to believe that nobody is interested in abolishing cruel race prejudice.

The observations of the Attorney General are keenly reflective. Conferences and manifold discussions will avail little if nothing is done about diverting some materials to increasing available housing space, greater transportational facilities to relieve incessant crowding on public conveyances and increased recreational facilities for the citizens of Detroit, and all other war industry urban centers. These are tension media.

The post mortem findings on the Detroit flareup have clearly indicated that the riot was primarily caused by local inattention to the inadequacies recited above. In addition, race relations have been left shamefully neglected.

After the disturbance over the opening of the Sojourner Truth Project for Negroes, civic, religious and social organizations more zealously should have busied themselves in explaining the plight of the Negroes' housing situation in Detroit. An intelligent explanation of this situation might have resulted in a sympathetic understanding of not only the cramped housing situation but the bitterness and unrest that such would evoke from any human beings.

The handling of the Detroit riot left vestiges of bitterness which are potential powder kegs, because reliable reports have indicated that the greatest brutalities inflicted upon Negroes were not from the white civilian participants but from the officers of the law who are supposed to invoke order and protect not murder citizens. Why did the officers of the law find it necessary to kill twenty-four black citizens and no whites? They should be brought to immediate justice, for such irresponsible action as this hastens discord and delays racial understanding.

JUL 18 1943

ORGANIZATIONS are pressing the President to appoint his own commission to investigate the rash of race riots. The Department of Justice has been unable, according to Attorney-General Biddle's private remarks, to find any consistent "pattern" in these riots. Biddle has consistently stepped gingerly in regard to native fascist movements. He has refused to prosecute Charles E. Coughlin; he has postponed bringing to trial the thirty-three indicted as seditionists and Nazi agents. Now, according to the Department of Justice, the thirty-three will not be in court before autumn, if then. The indictment mentions Gerald L. K. Smith's hate-sheet, *The Cross and the Flag*, but Smith is allowed to spread his venomous bigotry unchallenged and unmolested. . . . The Department hesitates to conduct a thorough investigation of the Detroit pogroms. FBI agent John S. Bugas "discounted charges that the outbreaks were instigated by Axis agents," and found no evidence of fifth column activity. Bugas frequently converses with Ford's Harry Bennett, who in turn has indicated partiality to Coughlin.

The Department of Justice insists on drawing a rigid differentiation between Nazi fifth columnists and what it calls the "super-patriotic zeal" of such "American" organizations as the KKK and the Black Legion. The Department says it can uncover no evidence of dangerous activities on the part of the Klan, Those who urge further investigations of the KKK, say Department spokesmen, risk stirring up the "patriotic" Kluxers' resentment, which will be expressed in lynching and riot. . . . Also, the Department stresses, its hands are tied unless proof can be adduced that the riots "aided the enemy." To this pusillanimous evasion, Elmer Davis of OWI gave the best answer last week: "Whoever spread them [rumors stirring up race hatred]is helping Hitler. . . ." When a delegation of Negroes and whites came to Washington to urge the Department of Justice to act, several federal agencies conducted their own behind-the-scenes "inquiry" as to whether distinguished Negro members of the delegation had come to Washington to "foment race riots. . . ." Martin Dies is now busily injecting himself into the dangerous situation. Intimations are that Dies will "go after" all those who want to "improve" the lot of minorities. Dies will gun for liberal organizations supporting the anti-poll tax and anti-lynch bills, and he seems likely to smear every scientist and anthropologist who has dealt with the race question. Hitler outlawed the science of anthropology as a first step in his continental pogrom.

JUL 13 1943

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Spies in Detroit



WE ARE waiting to hear what Detroit's "Fact Finding" Committee has to say about the arrest of six spies in that city last week. So far the Committee has accepted the news with thunderous silence. One of the facts—the principal one—that Prosecutor Dowling and his purblind colleagues

SEP 7

wouldn't find, was a connection between the arrest of Dr. Fred W. Thomas, one of the six charged with espionage, the Dies of the fifth column and the insurrection that has had the records and files of the Detroit's streets several months committee rushes belatedly on the stage—January 1942. Sage, along with Garland raged on Detroit's streets several months committee rushes belatedly on the stage—January 1942. Sage, along with Garland ago. Observers will recall that the official nineteen months late—to charge that Dr. Alderman and Virgil Chandler, has been investigating body carefully whitewashed Thomas "angeled" the National Workers League since the Klan and its kin organization, the League and attempted to get its secretary, Sojourner Truth riots under indictment for activities in the National Workers League. Now that the Parker Sage, on the Ford payroll. Dies, which they and the Klan instigated. This Federal Bureau of Investigation announces publicity-hungry as usual, failed to men-ushered in the bloody street fighting which

took the lives of thirty-five Detroiters—twenty-seven of them Negroes.

Further facts the Detroit Fact Finding Committee might examine are these: Sage's lieutenant, Charles Dexter, a labor spy, has been hired at the River Rouge plant of Henry Ford, and is evidently still employed there; Theodore Donay, linked with the escape of Nazi Lieutenant Krug from a Canadian prison camp, has also been reported a member of the League; Sage has worked at the US Rubber Co., which witnessed an anti-Negro strike recently and where the Klan operates today more arrogantly than ever.

This much the recent arrests make clear: Hitler has understood the crucial importance of Detroit. He has sent his agents to operate in the arsenal of democracy. These agents are directly linked with subversive organizations in that area. They have used the Negro issue to foment insurrections against our national war effort and unity. This is what labor and Negro organizations have been contending all along. NEW MASSES for a long time has warned that this was the case, and has published expose after expose making these charges. Now the FBI confirms them. All Americans have the right to ask, well, what about it? Will Attorney General Biddle do what patriotism and security demand? The cases of the thirty-three sedtionists are still unsettled; Sage, Chandler, Alderman, Gerald L. K. Smith and many others are still at large. What, in the name of justice, do we have to see happen before the Klan and allied fifth column groups are erased from the national scene?

HOUSING AND RACE RIOTS.

Msgr. Francis J. Haas returned to Washington from a three day visit in Detroit to place the blame for the recent race riots in the latter city on "inadequate housing, recreation, and public transportation." Some other observers have talked to much the same effect.

The causes of race conflict are many and complicated. The city of Detroit is overcrowded and the rapidly increasing Negro population has undoubtedly been forced to accept the worst of the inadequate facilities. But to ascribe race riots to bad housing is quite a flight of logic.

Is it supposed that the Negroes of Detroit found their slum quarters so unbearable that they sallied out to attack the white people? Or that the whites of the city were so outraged by the Negro slums, for which the occupants obviously, were not to blame, that they invaded them and attacked the Negroes?

The prevention of race conflicts requires the most careful and [illegible] of the many problems that promote them. The end is no

advanced by permitting the professional housers to use race riots as a tub thumping device for their panacea.

Labor Imported From South No Factor In Detroit Riots

DETROIT, June 26.—(AP)—A sociologist who directed an inquiry [illegible] reported tonight the large war-induced influx of workers from the South and other sections was "almost no factor" in last Monday's outbreak of fighting between negroes and white persons.

Dr. C. F. Ramsay, director of the Michigan Department of Social Welfare, said he and a staff of volunteer assistants had questioned nearly 500 persons arrested during the riots and that "a majority of those interviewed had lived in Detroit more than five years."

Total deaths resulting from the 24 hours of rioting that swept this city rose to 34 today. Of these 25 were negroes, nine whites.

The midnight curfew lid remained tightly clamped on the city for the weekend, enforced by Federal troops who have been on duty here since Monday night.

Dr. Ramsay and his staff conducted their sociological inquiry at the request of Governor Harry F. Kelly of Michigan, seeking in mental, physical and emotional backgrounds the causes for such outbreaks, "open" and a clue to solution or mitigation of such trouble in the future.

"We reached a preliminary conclusion," Dr. Ramsay said tonight, "that transition of persons from other parts of the country to Detroit was almost no factor in the riot."

Two general conditions obtained in nearly all the cases investigated, he reported. These were: The riot participants were employed in good jobs and anxious to return to them, and they reported "no racial discrimination in their school or employment experiences. "Most of those questioned were natives," he said.

One of the additional deaths reported today was that of John Holyak, 59-year-old war worker whose son is a Japanese prisoner after being captured on Bataan. Holyak, en route home from work Monday night, was attacked and killed while kicking in a window and cutting himself fatally.

Paradise Valley, With Detroit Quiet

But City Courts Busy Cleaning Up 1,010 White And Negro Riot Cases

BY FELIX B. WOLD

DETROIT — (AP) — Once more Paradise Valley tries to live up to its name and there is apparent peace on Hastings Street.

Detroit's Negro belt, the honeycomb lying east of Broad and busy Woodward Avenue which was a center of the race riot storms of June 21, is [illegible] again. But Detroit is not forgetting the outbreak which claimed 34 lives.

City courts are busy day after day cleaning up 1,010 misdemeanor and felony cases, the most prolonged parade of white and black defendants in the city's history. The Circuit Court of Wayne County is lending a hand; even so, it is expected two more months will be needed to complete the job.

In addition, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries' inter-racial committee, including white and Negro civic leaders, is attempting to determine the exact riot causes, recommending action to guard against repetition.

Some observers lay the blame mostly on the "hoodlum element" of both races; others say congestion and inadequate housing, with Detroit's estimated 350,000 migrant war workers as an added irritant, were prime causes. Each school of thought says wartime tension was a factor.

Whatever the causes, the riots will have an extended aftermath aside from prosecutions. There is promised a psychiatric report on the arrested rioters. Property owners seek redress for damages.

Cases before the courts embrace 608 misdemeanors and 402 felonies by count of E. B. Montgomery, clerk of Recorder's Court. Negro convictions [illegible] outnumbered white by nearly six to one.

* * *

POLICE COMMISSIONER JOHN H. WITHERSPOON sought to clear up what he called a public misconception, acknowledging complaints of police prejudice toward the Negro.

"From midnight until 8 a.m.," he said, "the first eight hours of rioting—all the rioting was done by Negroes. Naturally, there were more arrests of Negroes.

"There is no record of any white person having used a firearm. The guns, knives and other dangerous weapons outside of clubs and rocks were used by Negroes."

The commissioner said 222 whites were injured as against 110 Negroes. He also said that to his knowledge white men took no part in raiding stores in the Black Belt.

The Rev. Horace A. White, Negro leader, took sharp issue with the police record on the early hours of rioting. Witnesses informed him, he said, that mobs of "young white hoodlums" formed as early as 4 or 5 a.m.

"As to white persons firing guns, I cannot testify because I did not see anyone doing so," he said. "But I did see whites with guns."

Witherspoon expressed belief that published photographs of riot incidents had created a "false impression" that whites caused most of the damage. Witherspoon said he saw no pictures showing Negro aggression although conceding that photographers would have been in hazard if they tried to take such views.

"Even the police themselves did not get any pictures there," he said.

He referred to looting in the stores of white merchants in the Negro belt. The merchants say their damage approximates $400,000.

* * *

THE COMMISSIONER, A TALL, SOLDIERLY figure, called attention to one phase of the police investigation which showed that "our decent citizens" took no part in the rioting.

"Most of the persons now being prosecuted, both white and Negro," he said, "have records of previous offenses.

"I consider this the most significant thing in the whole picture. In other words, although we arrested 1,800 persons and are prosecuting more than 1,000, the rioting wasn't so widespread as some people might think."

"Total deaths were 34,'" he said, "and any rumors of a larger number of deaths are false."

The Army, which withdrew its troops recently, reports that not a shot was fired by the soldiers. Maj. Thomas de Mint, public relations officer for the Sixth Service Command, said there was no need for the soldiers to pull a trigger, because "no one ever cares to mess around with the federal troops."

As to the possibility of a recurrence of rioting, official comment is guarded. At the same time, veteran police officers say privately that they think there'll be no more of it.

"Those fellows," said a gray-haired lieutenant, "just wanted to slug somebody. I haven't seen it so peaceful around here in a long time as it is now."

The 34 deaths—nine whites, 25 Negroes—went into the police record in this manner:

Whites—One policeman shot by a Negro; five civilians beaten or stabbed to death by Negroes; one civilian shot by a [illegible] civilian struck and killed by an automobile in riot area; one believed shot by Negro.

Negroes—Thirteen shot by police while looting; three shot in gun fights with police; one shot after assaulting a policeman; one killed by another Negro; six shot by unknown persons: one accidentally

Detroit's All-American Record

DETROIT, July 22—Among other things that were shaken up in the recent race riot in this city was the all-time American record—36 dead in a race riot. Since the war began, and [illegible] has been a haven for colored [illegible] recently. After the country roused itself, nearly all [illegible] riot, nearly all sepia talent has been cancelled.

Local operators feel that it will be quite a while before colored units will be employed again. Nevertheless, most of the city's cocktail lounges have been booked for a two-week engagement, beginning August 6. At although the few spots which have held on to their talent have reported that time he will have at least two, ed no trouble. At the Vogue Lounge, for one, Bobby Harris and his colored band Hap Draper, colored pianists, are members along. the alternating entertainers with

The latest to die in Detroit was Patrolman Lawrence A. Adams, 29, who was shot dead by another officer.

Detroit police say Adams died of a back wound inflicted by a Negro who was among the 500 injured during the anti-Negro outbreaks on June 21.

Detroit now holds the all-time American record—36 dead in a race riot. The previous title-holder was East St. Louis, Ill., where 33 were killed on July 2, 1917.

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL

RACIAL TROUBLE After federal troops had been called in to calm the rioters, Detroit's mayor delivered himself of what was either a shabby political excuse to cover the failures of his own administration, or he spoke without thinking and out of a prejudice of his own.



He and one of the commissioners of police took an unworthy and uncalled-for swipe at the south, saying that the great numbers of southerners who had come into the city were likely responsible. This was a gratuitous falsehood but it followed a certain pattern, of which more later.

I was at the office looking over the Associated Press copy and saw the statement. Just to keep the record straight I sent each of the gentlemen the following wire.

"According to press reports you have stated that an influx of southerners into Detroit's war plants contributed to the riots in your city. I wish to respectfully but emphatically protest this statement. Detroit is learning what the south learned long ago, that the race problem is a national problem and not a sectional problem. It grows out of injustices, maladjustments and out of economic inequalities, of which Detroit and the south have each their share. The south does not criticize Detroit but shares with Detroit the hope for an early settlement.

"What I do wish to protest is the cheap and easy habit of blaming any and all racial troubles on the south, even when they occur in Detroit. The 15-year-old youngsters who began your riot certainly were not southern workers. Please let me call your attention to the fact that the south, with 75 per cent of the Negro troops, most of them put down by some obscure reasoning of the War Department beside small rural communities with no recreational facilities for white or Negro people, and with 75 per cent of the nation's Negroes, still has had no real trouble.

"We have a real problem, but we are working at it as we know Detroit was working at hers. Ours may be set on fire as was Detroit's. We will try, with the people of both races working at the problem, to prevent it. Meanwhile, we ask that you not contribute to further disunity by the easy and unworthy slap at the south in the effort to explain Detroit's troubles. Cordially and with sincere hopes for a permanent and early solution of your troubles,

(Signed) "RALPH McGILL.
"Editor, Atlanta Constitution."

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
June 24, 1943

The wire was inadequate, covering only the barest facts which any high school student of civics or sociology knows. I sent it for the sake of the record.

ITS ROOTS There is a danger that the tensions, increased in the past several months, will be broken with violence, and because of that fact each citizen, of each race, must make it his duty to keep his feet on the ground.

The tensions are enough. It is important to keep in mind that the official reason for the riots in Detroit and in Texas are given as "false rumors."

It is hot weather. Transportation lines are overburdened. People going home on crowded buses enter them hot, sweaty, tired and with tempers already near the breaking point. It is not easy. It requires more than patience.

False rumors, of course, are not the real reason for the trouble in Detroit or in Beaumont. Its roots are in old intolerances and in the denial to the Negro of many of his constitutional rights and privileges.

Crowding in cities, on streets, in buses, means that tensions are superimposed upon already existing intolerances and ignorances.

The heavier burden is on the Negro. That any just person must admit. But I also think there is a responsibility on the Negro leaders of the east, and some in our own region, which they are not meeting.

There are some of these leaders, intelligent and impatient, who have been joined by some uncompromising white advisers, who say they will legislate prejudice and intolerance out of existence.

They say the laws are behind them. They are right. They say the economic discrimination against the Negro is contrary to the principles upon which this nation was founded. They are right.

But they are terribly and tragically wrong when they refuse to see that the catching up of public opinion with an enlightened law must, for the most part, be a slow process. It must be that or be a bitter, blood-letting with much the same results in the end.

RESPONSIBILITY The Negro has advanced and is advancing. Each advance has been accepted among all but a small minority. It would be far more credit to us had this progress of the Negro toward a more definite citizenship been more accelerated, had that position clearly entitled him to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But we deal with human nature and human weaknesses.

The Negro's right to employment, to housing, to better schools have all been lately acknowledged and that right sustained by the courts. This is but one of the more recent advances. More important, the machinery for obtaining these things has been established.

Today the Negro is not merely better off than any other minority race in the world. He is better off than he has ever been before. His chances of employment on an equal basis are better, and are growing better each day. Old prejudices against him in the armed services are decreasing. Injustice against him is surer of an airing in the press and of a strong defense.

It is not enough, but it is something.

What I do think important is that those persons, white and colored, who demand that we suddenly play God and abolish ignorance and prejudice and intolerance by fiat; who teach that these things can be obtained by the signing of a piece of paper; who day in and day out remind the Negro of the wrongs done him and of the suffering of his race without once encouraging him to think not merely of the gains he has made, but of those he is making and will make, are very real enemies of the Negro and his future. They are not his friends.

Neither presidents, nor kings, nor great and influential persons can reach into human minds and remove prejudice and intolerance therefrom. Court may hand down decrees, presidents and kings and dictators may issue executive orders. They are meaningless unless the people accept them. Only the continuing enlightenment of the human mind can make it possible.

Do not listen to false rumors. The rumor of rape in Beaumont was not true. The rumor of killings and beatings which set off the Detroit riots were not true. Yet for days the people believed them.

It is hot weather. It is difficult to think straight and to keep tempers cool. It is a time for honest, decent men and women of both races to take a long view.

CHANGE THE WORLD



Detroit Martyrs Are as Much Hitler's Victims as Soldiers Lost in Battle

By MIKE GOLD

Daily Worker—New York City
JUN 25 1943

"During the height of the riot," reported Tom Dombrowski of the recent tragedy in Detroit, "a man standing beside me, a Rumanian worker with tears streaming down his face, kept repeating, 'I'm ashamed for America! I'm ashamed for America'."

This is the way many Americans must be feeling today. It is terrible to look at your white face the morning after such mass murder. It is awful to know that you somehow share the guilt.

America has always been a land of racial dynamite, and the Negro question its the most explosive element. Is it possible to keep 13 million Americans permanently in an inferior caste of untouchables, to deprive them of every democratic right and at the same time preserve American democracy?

We have tried doing just that. We have fancied that we could possess a healthy national body even though a torniquet of injustice choked off the democratic blood from both arms. But the limbs swelled with the gangrene of these racial riots. America can't be free unless all citizens are equal sons and daughters of the great Motherland. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

A house filled with riot, murder and race war isn't going to have much time to fight Hitler. All its energies and hates will be absorbed right at home. Hitler once boasted that he had no fear about fighting America, because it was so eaten up with this race problem.

Now, after Stalingrad, which has been the Gettysburg of this war; now, after [illegible] Sath in North Africa, and the rising wave of anti-Nazi revolutions in Europe, the moment of supreme danger for Hitler has struck.

Thus he makes his last desperate stand. He plays his last ace in the hole, and unleashes the race war in America. There is a direct line running from Stalingrad to Detroit.

* * *

"Wait until it breaks in Chicago—and then you'll see the real thing," was the sinister threat spoke by a hoodlum leader in the riots.

If one reporter heard such words spoke, other reporters and detectives must have heard and seen hundreds of indications of national conspiracy.

The one hopeful element in the tragedy has been the almost unanimous manner in which the press hinted that these were no spontaneous riots. They had come in a pattern that revealed the presence of some national planning.

Only in the Daily News and other Nazified papers are the riots treated as if they were [illegible] Negro-white clashes, built up on the basis of hundreds of years of American historic crime and injustice.

The Negro comrades and fellow-citizens, allow these riots to blind racial hatred of the white race.

be a folly that plays into Hitler's hands. The people not make these riots. It was a small professional ng on the payroll of Hitler's secret agents—Black k Klan, and similar racketeers of fascism.

ress dispatch told of numbers of young soldiers and through the Detroit crowds, cursing out the rioters, "The guys who started these riots are the guys we n North Africa."

much-printed photo of two young white boys, one Army sweatshirt, who are supporting a poor Negro th gore. They are mad, fighting mad against the Troopers, who attacked this man. There were seen -Kluxers in Detroit.

power of the CIO has been thrown into the fight i rioters. From every part of America millions of white, are protesting to the President. The FBI is its own reluctant fashion to investigate the Fifth organize his chain of carefully planned riots.

is roused as never before. The martyrs of Detroit itler. as much as any American boy shot on a battle-

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held. And their blood has shocked the nation into rooting out the Fifth Column at last.

These riots, actually a plan to sabotage our planes, tanks, cannon and other war production, are as much a part of the war as Bizerte or Stalingrad. Above all, let the Negro people realize this, and not take their eye off the main enemy, who is Adolf Hitler, only author of this horrible crime of race rioting.

Delegation Urges FDR Act on Klan

Daily Worker

By Adam Lapin

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, June 23.—CIO and AFL union leaders and spokesmen for Negro and Jewish groups today urged President Roosevelt to "put down with a film hand" the Axis-inspired campaign of violence against Negroes and other minorities which has flared up with such devastating results in Detroit.

A representative delegation asked the President to speak to the Nation in denunciation of the recent acts of terrorism and to take whatever steps are necessary to suppress the groups responsible for them. Daily Worker, New York

Specifically, the delegation urged that the Ku Klux Klan be outlawed at once, that the Department of Justice investigate the riots in Detroit and other cities and that the President issue a proclamation abolishing jim crow restrictions in the army.

Leaders of the delegation were Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, Shelton Tappes, secretary of the huge United Automobile Workers Local at the Ford River Rouge plant in Detroit and Al. Bernkopf of the Jewish Peoples' Committee.

LASH COVER-UP OF ISSUE

At a press conference in the office of representative Vito Marcantonio, spokesmen for the group including Collins and Ben Davis, Negro Communist leader, lashed out at efforts to confuse the issue by putting the blame for the Detroit outbreaks on alleged Japanese propaganda among the Negro people.

Davis said that this is tantamount to "making the Negro people who were the victims of these outrages responsible for what has occurred."

Just such an attempt to blur the issue was made this afternoon by Representative Martin Dies who held a press conference immediately after returning to Washington from a three-month sojourn on his Texas ranch, interrupted only by occasional speaking trips.

Dies said that there was evidence that Japanese propaganda was a factor in the Detroit outbreaks.

DIES RIDES AGAIN

Asked to be specific, he referred to the activities of a Major Takahashi in Detroit in 1933.

Detroit leaders on the delegation which visited the Capitol pointed out that there has been no evidence of Japanese activity among the Negroes in the last year in that city—while there has been plenty of evidence of Klan activity.

Dies also managed to drag in the red herring, and said that his committee had evidence of Communist activity among Japanese elements in this country.

An even more blatant attempt to excuse the Detroit rioters was made by Representative John Rankin of Mississippi, who blamed everything on the anti-poll tax bill and on the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee.

Implicit in Rankin's speech on the House floor was a threat that efforts to abolish discrimination against the Negroes will lead to continuation of these acts of violence.

Rankin demanded "complete segregation" of the Negro people as the "only way in which Negroes and whites can live together peaceably on the same soil."

Collins and other spokesmen for the delegation said that they were encouraged by the response they received from officials including Marvin McIntyre, Secretary to President Roosevelt, Victor Rotnem, head of the Department of Justice Civil Liberties Unit, and Edward McGrady, Assistant to the Secretary of War.

JUSTICE DEPT. A LA BIDDLE

Earlier in the day, however, Department of Justice officials told the Daily Worker that there had been a decision not to investigate the Detroit situation.

Justice Department officials said that the decision not to investigate was reached by Attorney General Francis Biddle, and was confirmed last night at a meeting of Department officials including Biddle, Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge and Victor Rotnem chief of the Civil Liberties Unit.

This decision, according to Justice Department officials, was made because Biddle and his associates were convinced that there is no evidence that any federal laws have been violated and there is any evidence of fifth column instigations of the Detroit riots against the Negro people.

The Department of Justice attitude conflicts with reports from well-informed observers on the spot in Detroit including R. J. Thomas, President of the United Automobile Workers.

It also conflicts with a finding made by the Department last year that organized, subversive groups were behind the mobs which tried to prevent Negroes from moving into the Sojourner Truth Housing Project on Feb. 28, 1942.

A Federal Grand Jury indicted officers of the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association and the Natonal Workers League, a pro-Hitler group, smeared on Nazi lines, for conspiracy to bar the Negro tenants from occupying their new homes in the housing project.

The indictment was returned on April 16, 1942, but the case has not yet been brought to trial.

Axis 5th Column Strikes at Home

Daily Worker

By James W. Ford

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 22.—Hitler's fifth column has struck at the war effort of our arsenal of democracy. It struck at our Commander-in-Chief President Roosevelt.

The anti-Negro riots must be publicly branded for what they are—the Axis inspired effort, organized for the purpose of wrecking the unity of the American people and helping the fascists. It is timed by the fifth column as our boys are set to invade Europe.



James W. Ford

The Negro people are exonerated from any responsibility for these riots. The finger of accusation must be plainly pointed to those subversive forces which first showed their hand in the Sojourner Truth Housing outrage, the Inkster and Eastwood Park troubles, the Packard strike and in the present bloody violence.

Every reporter must insistently demand that Attorney General Biddle and Prosecutor Dowling of Detroit once and for all act upon the great amount of information given them in the past year as to the work and activities of the Detroit fifth column, especially the Ku Klux Klan, and demand an immediate identification, punishment of these subversive forces and disbanding of these organizations.

DEFENSE OF AMERICA

Smashing the fifth column conspiracy is the primary responsibility of the white workers, the mighty unions and progressive organizations in closest cooperation with their Negro fellow citizens.

The defense of the rights of the Negro people is the defense of America. All trade union organizations, officers, committee men, stewards, should take immediate steps to plan for the full protection of their Negro brothers, guarantee their security and ability to continue producing the sinews of war in the plants. Daily Worker

The people of Detroit urge that Mayor Jeffries and Police Commissioner Witherspoon compel the police to perform their duties and to give protection to the Negro citizenry in a democratic and impartial manner, and immediately investigate those atrocities and instances where police officers delivered the brunt of their attack not against the hoodlums who have brought such shame and tragedy to our city but against the Negro people. An immediate Grand Jury investigation and meting out of punishment of all riot organizers and their accomplices must be demanded.

A CALL FOR ACTION

Let all patriotic organizations of the people, churches, fraternal and especially the trade union movement unite more firmly to see to it that the Negro people are given full protection so that they may make their proper contribution to the war effort of our country. We urge all Negro workers to return to their jobs to produce for victory.

We call upon all white people to protect their Negro brothers.

The Communist Party calls upon the people of Detroit and especially labor to rally behind city, state and federal authorities in the discharge of their duties in restoring law and order.

The Communist Party of Michigan calls upon the people of Detroit to form solid and united ranks and show their patriotic vigilance and real devotion to their country in the face of this organized conspiracy against the unity, strength and military victory of the United States and United Nations. Victory over the fascist axis and its agents, the very survival of our country and its democracy depends upon exposure and defeat of this foul conspiracy.

RACE RIOT MENACE TOPIC OF SERMONS

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Goldstein Sees Rebirth of Ku Klux Klan as 'Danger to Be Reckoned With'

INVESTIGATION IS ASKED

National Outbreaks Fomented by Subversive Groups, Says Rabbi William Rosenblum

The Detroit race riots were described as a menace to our war drive in sermons by rabbis here yesterday.

Rabbi Israel Goldstein in Temple B'nai [illegible], Eighty-eighth Street, near Broadway, declaring that the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan "is a danger to be reckoned with," urged Congress to turn its attention to race riots.

"No single act of domestic policy will so redound to the moral credit of the United States abroad, especially in Asia," he said, "as the righting of the wrongs which we have perpetrated upon our Negro fellow citizens.

"If our Federal, State and municipal authorities address themselves with the same energy to this problem on the home front as they have manifested in the provision of manpower, money and implements for overseas war needs, our domestic troubles can be solved."

Seen As National Problem

Describing the Detroit race riots as "a national problem," Rabbi Hyman J. Schachtel in West End Synagogue, 160 West Eighty-second Street, said: "The American people who believe in one God as the Father of all mankind must not rest until the basic economic and social problems which lie at the root of these race riots are known and solved.

"While our boys are fighting this kind of evil abroad, we who are civilians at home must overcome this adversary within our own backyards."

"The lawlessness that is so rampant in certain sections of this country," said Rabbi Joseph Zeitlin in Temple Ansche Chesed, 100th Street and West End Avenue, "must be regarded as the germs of a disease that seeks to destroy the fruits and blessings of our great Government."

Dangers Are Pointed Out

Ninety-first Street, "who fail to various ch[illegible] as well. It must be an immediate [illegible] which city officials, leaders, the civic and neighborhood [illegible] organizations and ministers of the [illegible] churches should have a [illegible] to bring to bear upon the [illegible] of Negro living in this city the best vision which [illegible] and Negro men and women [illegible] can muster."

"For whenever a minority is oppressed and its rights are denied no other minority group is safe, and what is more, ultimately the entire population stands in the shadow of oppressions and blood-shed. May those who seek to un- subversive groups

"There are too many New York-ers," said Rabbi William F. Rosenblum in Temple Israel, 210 West dermine our country by realizing their malicious ma- sentatives

61-1943

Causes of Riot Sought In War Work Tension

World-Telegram New York, N.Y.

JUN 22 1943

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, June 22.—Stunned Detroit looked over its death toll and wreckage today and asked, "What caused the race riots?"

Were they simply an outgrowth of a Sunday evening fist fight on a crowded bridge? Police have pointed to that incident as the start of the bloody struggle that surged for 24 hours.

Almost unanimously, the populace agreed that the fistfight—between a white man and a Negro—was merely the spark applied to tinder.

Nerves on Edge.

Detroit is a city of war plants. War workers labor long hours at their machines. Nerves are on edge.

"I believe this has as much to do with the riot as anything," said Police Commissioner Witherspoon. "We've seen it coming for months."

Labor is scarce here. Workers come into the city by the trainload, many of them from the South.

An estimated 90,000 Negroes were streaming over a bridge from Belle Isle, popular picnic area, Sunday, when the fistfight occurred. A rumor spread up and down the bridge that a Negro woman and her child had been killed.

Rumor Still Sticks.

"The rumor was pure falsehood," Mr. Witherspoon said, "but it couldn't be stopped. Many Negroes still believe it."

John S. Bugas, FBI head in Detroit, denied that there was evidence the riot was planned or organized.

"There is no indication that Axis propaganda had anything to do with it," Mr. Bugas said.

In later stages of the rioting, young boys between 14 and 18 were running wild on the streets. Mobs of 300 and 400 youths upset automobiles, chased Negroes and stormed street cars. Mr. Bugas commented.

"Do you think the 200 kids, boys between 14 and 18, who stopped a street car, pulled off Negroes and pummeled them, were acting on orders? I don't. That was just plain mob violence."

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Trouble in Detroit

Times New York, N.Y.

JUN 27 1943

One week ago today Detroit sizzled in sultry Midwestern heat. The temperature hovered in the high 80s most of the day and reached an afternoon peak of 91. Thousands of Detroiters left their crowded, jerry-built residential sections to seek relief in the parks. Nearly 200,000 of them—many from the downtown sections—found their way to Belle Isle, city-owned island-resort, a half-mile off shore in the Detroit River. Among the picnickers and bathers at the 985-acre playground were sailors and soldiers from near-by military establishments and thousands of white and Negro war workers on their day off from the Motor City's humming armament plants.

At the park during the day there were scattered altercations between whites and Negroes. These had not been uncommon in the war years in Detroit. Regular police details quieted them. As the crowds in the summer night moved homeward over Belle Isle Bridge that links park and mainland, a fist fight started between a white man and a Negro. Racial antagonisms that had been intensified by wartime conditions were touched off. Violence swept the bridge, carried across to Grand Boulevard, spread into "Paradise Valley," the largest Negro residential section.

JUN 27 1943

For two nights and a day white and Negro groups roamed the streets, overturning and burning automobiles, assaulting one another, wrecking and firing homes. When it was over twenty-nine persons were dead (all but three of them Negroes), 700 injured, 1,300 under arrest. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson had sent 3,400 troops into Detroit in response to Governor Harry F. Kelly's appeal to President Roosevelt for help. The President had issued a proclamation calling upon the rioters to disperse. Governor Kelly had proclaimed a state of "modified martial law." Mayor Edward J. Jeffries had sent the entire police force into the disturbance areas. By Wednesday a truce prevailed in what had been the worst race riot in Midwest history, worse than the 1916 riots in East St. Louis, Ill., or the 1919 Chicago beach riots.

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Mobile, Beaumont, Tex., Los Angeles and other cities have recently experienced interracial violence. Most observers agree it has stemmed from wartime conditions. Large numbers of rural Southerners, both Negro and white, have been drawn to war-production centers—North and South. Skilled Negro workers have competed with whites for higher-paid jobs in armament plants. Bad housing has complicated conditions.

History of Tension

Michigan

In Detroit these tensions became acute early in the war. In the three years since the 1940 census the city's cramped housing has sheltered an additional 500,000 persons, about 60,000 of them Negroes. Personal antagonisms flared into group antagonism. In February, 1942, 1,200 armed whites barred Negroes from occupying the Sojourner Truth housing development, built especially for them. Early this month 25,000 Packard plant workers walked out in an unauthorized strike over the upgrading of three Negro workers. In the week before Sunday's outbreak there were near-riots in Detroit's Eastwood Park section and in near-by Inkster. Fanning the racial fire, according to some reports, were such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, revived under the name of the United Sons of America, and the America First party, led by Gerald L. K. Smith.

State and city authorities set in motion machinery for executive and grand jury investigation of the riot. Programs for immediate and long-term settlement of Detroit's antagonisms were being proposed and discussed.

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

JUN 27 1943

SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITY

It is a familiar trick that when the heat is turned on a person he immediately accuses someone else in order to divert attention from him. In fact, that is what the armies. They attack the enemy in one spot in order to relieve pressure on their own lines in another spot.

And that is just the trick Prosecutor William E. Dowling of Detroit is using when he accuses the NAACP and the Negro Press of much responsibility for the Detroit race riot. It has been proven quite conclusively that public officials did a poor job handling the situation. He wants the blame on somebody else.

We are quite certain that Prosecutor William E. Dowling approves the services rendered by Negroes in the armed forces where they are fighting to help liberate the enslaved nations in Europe; he approves the efforts of the NAACP and the Negro Press to get Negroes in all branches of the armed services [illegible] them to do the job [illegible].

But when did it become wrong for a man to use his own efforts and those of his friends to free himself? And, frankly, that is all the NAACP and the Negro Press contend for, and they will continue to do so until the freedom we are trying to win for the Poles, Greeks, Checks and other enslaved peoples is a fact in America for all of its citizens.

There are a great many people who think well of the Negro until he begins to insist on hi rights. Then the excuse "the time is not ripe," "go slow," and like admonitions are passed around.

The Bystander does not believe boisterous, inflammatory conduct get the Negro anywhere anywhere but it does endorse every intelligent orderly and legal program any Negro or his friends employ to secure the full enjoyment for every American citizen all the rights, privileges and obligations to which he is entitled under the United States Constitution.

AUG 5 1943

Worst Race Riots Occur In North

June 24, 1943

Despite claims by Northern South haters, the worst race riots occur in the North. As this is written the great city of Detroit is in the throes of the worst riot between whites and Negroes, that has taken place since the Saint Louis race riots during the other World War. In Detroit, not only state troopers, but federal forces as well, have been sent in to quell the disturbance.

And it all started as a fuss between one white man and one negro. It has been pointed out that this, if it had occurred in the South would have been the signal for the South-hating papers to orate until they were hoarse, about Southern people hating the poor, down-trodden negro. But since it is right among those who profess to love Sambo, nothing is said, except to give the news.

As this is written, many have already been sent to the hospital and several have been killed.

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch

July 11, 1943

Dixie's Role in Detroit

TO WHAT extent were Southerners responsible for the recent disgraceful race riot in Detroit, which took 31 lives, 25 of them colored? This newspaper has made a determined effort to find out.

There was the allegation that most of the Detroit police are Southerners, and that this accounted for their unwillingness to protect the Negroes from hoodlums during the riot. A leading Detroit newspaperman, in response to our query, advises us that this is "certainly not true." The Detroit police are mainly Poles, he declares.

There was the charge that most of the rioters were Southerners. Our responsible informant does not believe "the Southerners played so large a part in the rioting." Many of the worst rioters were Italians, he said.

The journalist in question says "the Southerners' part in the trouble goes back to what they did as members of the CIO to increase the feeling among whites and blacks." He explains that the CIO constitution guarantees Negroes complete equality, but says the Southerners protested against promotions for Negroes at the Packard and other plants. This caused serious friction.

But there is still more striking evidence concerning the minor role played by Southerners in the disorder. It is contained in the report of DR. C. F. RAMSEY, director of the Michigan Department of Social Welfare. He investigated the bloody outbreak at the request of GOVERNOR KELLEY, and he and his associates interviewed the almost 500 persons under arrest. He found that every single one of them had been a resident of Detroit for more than five years, and he denied that Southerners were guilty of bringing on the trouble.

Yet WALTER WHITE, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, insists that the South is responsible. The police force is full of Southerners, and the factories are teeming with "Southern white crackers who have poured into Detroit for the past 25 years and particularly during the past 15 months," says MR. WHITE.

It is curious, indeed, that none of the persons arrested had been in Detroit less than five years, if Southerners who had gone there in the past 15 months were mainly to blame for the horrible violence. We prefer the testimony of a nonpartisan official of the State of Michigan, and of a prominent Detroit newspaperman, neither of whom has any reason to want to whitewash the South, to the prejudiced statements of a man whose constant effort is to depict the white South in a highly unfavorable light.

Detroit Fast Returning to Normalcy

Columbia, S. C., State

Detroit, June 24 —(AP)— Detroit approached normalcy today and Governor Harry F. Kelly modified emergency restrictions including a general curfew and liquor ban imposed Monday as a means of curbing race rioting that brought death to more than 30 persons and injury to nearly 800. All restrictions were lifted in the outlying Metropolitan areas of Macomb and Oakland counties, while in Wayne county (Detroit)

ARMY PATROLS END DETROIT RIOTING; DEATH TOLL AT 28

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

First 34 of Thousands Under Arrest to Be Arraigned Get 90-Day Terms

CURFEW ORDER CONTINUED

Many Negroes Stay Away From Jobs—Major League Baseball, Racing Canceled

By The Associated Press.

DETROIT, June 22 — Under orders to "load your guns and don't take anything from anybody" United States troops patrolled Detroit streets today, restoring calm to this great arsenal production center after twenty-four hours of racial conflict that brought death to twenty-eight persons and injuries of varying degree to at least 700 others.

All but three of the dead were Negroes; of the injured, seventy-four remained in hospitals today, six of them policemen.

An estimated 1,200 persons were under arrest. Police officials said that about 85 per cent of them were Negroes, averaging in age around 21. Most of them were held in specially established prisons guarded by Michigan State troops.

With the arrival of the Army forces the violence and looting that flared up in different sections of the city from early Monday morning until last midnight subsided. Today there had been no report of further conflict, but saloons remained closed and public assemblages still were banned.

Negro Job Absenteeism High

Thousands of Negro factory workers, said to be fearful of renewed outbreaks, stayed away from work. An Office of War Information survey indicated Negro factory absenteeism today ran from 50 to 90 per cent. The effect upon war-goods production, plant spokesmen said, probably would not be apparent until tomorrow.

The Cleveland-Detroit baseball game and the day's horse-racing program at the Michigan State Fair Grounds were canceled. Theaters were permitted to remain open only until 9:15 P. M. (Eastern War Time) and a curfew ordering all citizens off the streets from 10 P. M. until 6 A. M. also continued in effect.

Governor Harry F. Kelly, who invoked these restrictions, announced after a conference with Army officers that the troops would stay in the Detroit area indefinitely.

In Recorder's Court today thirty-one men and three women, all Negroes, convicted of disturbing the peace in yesterday's rioting, were sentenced to 90-day terms in the Detroit House of Correction.

Armed Trucks on Patrol

Sent into the area under a proclamation of President Roosevelt that took note of "unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings," the troops in trucks and jeeps from which protruded bazooka rifles and machine guns, patrolled the main streets and yesterday's battle sectors.

Yesterday those streets and the outlying sectors were the scenes of savage hand-to-hand conflict between whites and Negroes.

The troops were enforcing a limited form of military control. There were more than 1,000 of them on duty, with as many more held in reserve in near-by Army posts. In the speedy jeeps and trucks they were available for quick movement to any affected area in a tri-county zone declared by Governor Kelly to be in a state of emergency. Their equipment included armored cars and a Red Cross unit.

Governor Kelly's state-of-emergency order covered Wayne County (Detroit) and adjoining Oakland and Macomb Counties, where many of the metropolitan area's larger armament factories are located.

The Army forces were under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner of the Sixth Service Command. He explained that martial law had not been proclaimed. The President's proclamation, he said, "gave Federal assistance to the state of emergency." This form leaves the military subordinate to the civil authority.

Most of the debris of yesterday's rioting in the downtown area—overturned and burned automobiles, shattered glass from smashed store fronts, the rocks and clubs used by warring men and women not otherwise armed—had been cleared away today. There was more visible evidence of the savagery of yesterday's outbreak in the upper east side Negro area.

Police Lieutenant Albert Hartsig who toured the area told of signs on some houses reading: "This is a colored home; do not break in." These homes, the officer said, were untouched while others which bore no placards were wrecked and plundered.

Almost every store on Hastings Street, the boulevard of Detroit's Negro district, owned by a white person had been smashed open and looted by the mob. Saloons were drained dry, drug stores burned out, cut-rate department stores ransacked. Wailing proprietors were just getting around to cleaning up.

Press Admitted Under Guard

Newspapermen were permitted to enter the Negro district under heavy Army escort today to inspect the wreckage. Many Negroes also were out to have a look at what a riot can do to private property when it gets out of control.

The interior of Ben's Shoe Store demonstrated what happened after the mob got inside. Not a shoe, not a slipper remained on the shelves. The floor was ankle deep in crushed shoe boxes, discarded oxfords and hundreds of No. 17 coupons. In the middle of this mess stood Ben, weeping. "Fifteen years hard work!" he cried. "And now look at me!"

The destruction stretched for three miles up and down the street. In some blocks store dummies lay like dead persons in the gutter and miscellaneous merchandise cluttered the sidewalks.

At another point in the middle East Side Negro section police halted a Negro driving an automobile from the radiator of which flew a white flag. "That flag means I'm neutral," the driver explained; "I'm not taking any chances." The officers said they found a revolver inside his shirt and booked him on a concealed weapons charge.

What led up to yesterday's clash still was debated today. A group of prominent Negro citizens, in a statement urging Negroes to refrain from spreading inflammatory rumors and to pursue normal activities, charged it was fifth-column inspired.

FBI Chief Scoffs at Axis Plot

John S. Bugas, head of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said he had no evidence that the riot was in any way planned or organized and that he did not believe any foreign power of Axis propaganda had any connection with it.

"Do you think," Mr. Bugas said, "that the 200 kids, boys between the ages of 14 and 18, who stopped a street car, pulled off Negroes and pummelled them, were acting on orders? I dont."

C. M. Bolds, regional labor representative of the War Production Board's labor production division, issued an appeal to all workers, Negrot and white, to forget their differences and unite in efforts to win the war.

"Long ago Hitler bragged that his agents would bring about a race situation such as the one which is now seriously hampering war production in the Detroit area," he said.

R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (C. I. O.) in a statement today called for a grand jury investigation of yesterday's rioting and suggested appointment of a bi-racial committee to make recommendations toward eliminating racial differences and friction.

Thirty elementary schools and three intermediate schools which closed Monday because teachers or children could not reach the buildings reopened today, but Herman J. Browe, deputy superintendent of schools, said few pupils appeared.

Governor Kelly, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., and Army officials said after a conference today they had not decided on any date for the Army troops to discontinue their guard duty here.

Restrictions Eased, Swings Back to Normal

Detroit Resumes Activities As City Surveys Riots

By the Associated Press

DETROIT, June 24.—Detroit appeared today to be returning to normalcy as the Army and Governor Kelly relaxed restrictions imposed Monday in the wake of the worst race rioting in the city's history.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, jr., described Wednesday night as "even quieter than normal" and advised proprietors of business establishments in the "paradise valley" Negro section that they might safely reopen their stores, promising "ample police protection."

A force of 3800 Federal troops, including a general curfew and liquor sale by the glass was permitted from 7 a. m. to 10 p. m., and places of amusement were allowed to remain open until 11 p. m. Since Monday all theaters had been forced to close at 9 p. m.

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A force of 3800 Federal troops under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, will remain until the weekend.

Both here and in Washington measures were taken to investigate causes of the bitter 24-hours of mob fighting that subsided Monday night on arrival of the military.

The total of 90-day sentences imposed on rioters reached 152 by this afternoon in Recorder's Court—126 of them Negroes and 26 white. Many of both races were under

WASHINGTON—War tension and the economic competition of Negroes and whites were given here Wednesday by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, as the wife of the President, as the reason for the recent racial outbreak in Detroit.

Admitting that as a result of her liberal attitude toward minority groups, including the Negro, she had been blamed by some for inciting the Detroit flare-up, Mrs. Roosevelt declared that the stopping of false rumors and promotion of good will would go far toward the avoidance of such risings.

"First, we must really run down rumors. We must have both colored

Mrs. Roosevelt Gives Her Version Of Detroit Riots

Chicago Defender
JUL 10 1943

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"First, we must really run down rumors. We must have both colored

61-1943

Michigan

Harlem's Outbreak Not a Race Riot

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

AUG 3 1943

The outburst of hoodlumism in New York's crowded Harlem district was not a race riot. Few whites seem to have been involved in the disorders and the killing and wounding apparently were inflicted by Negro rioters on members of their own race. The fact that the looted stores were owned largely by white persons seems to have been almost incidental, since no open policy seems to have animated the destructive mob but only a sullen urge to make trouble.

The outbreak is more regrettable since New York has since the Detroit affair made serious efforts to reduce racial tensions and to warn white citizens of the severe punishments awaiting persons who attempt to foment trouble. But trouble, when it did come, was generated spontaneously among an ugly Negro minority which made an isolated incident the signal for bursts of stupid vandalism.

This is not to say that Harlem's Negroes have no grievances. They live in overcrowded quarters. They are victims of the steady rise in rents which has led Mayor LaGuardia to petition for O.P.A. control of all New York rentals. The work opportunities which have opened so widely in cities having more heavy industry have not made themselves so evident in Harlem.

But all of these conditions are susceptible of remedies, and under the LaGuardia administration many of them have been remedied. Far graver as a source of enmity and dissatisfaction is the constant incitement to which Harlem's Negroes are subjected both by members of their own race and by sympathetic but thoughtless white persons. The most inflammatory of the country's self-consciously racial newspapers are published there. The movements protesting discrimination originate there. There is nothing subversive or illegal about either newspapers or movements, but their effect upon the crowding and tension of Harlem cannot help but be explosive.

But although their object, and that of the white newspapers which never cease to remind Negroes of their economic plight while forgetting to mention the significant gains they have made, is wholly to benefit their race, the very irrationality of their appeals produces just such results as Harlem's riot.

Ruthless Action Needed

Daily Worker - New York City

JUN 25 1943

YESTERDAY'S reports from Detroit said that production in that most important war center is still far from normal.

The cost of the insurrectionary riot against the Negro people in terms of planes, tanks and guns is enormous. And Detroit is not an isolated event.

Unless drastic action is taken the fifth column will continue its successful manipulation of race prejudice to disrupt both national unity and war production.

The vicious pro-fascist gang of Ku Kluxers, America Firsters and bundists who incited the riot must be dstroyed, root and branch. Their newspapers must be suppressed, their organizations smashed, and their leaders indicted for treason and murder.

This can be done only through the federal government. Some of the local law enforcement agencies appear to be too closely associated with elements involved to accomplish the job. The actions of the Detroit police are sufficient proof of this.

Failure of the Department of Justice to prosecute members of the fascist gang who were indicted by federal grand juries over a year ago encouraged the inciters of the riot. That mistake must not be made again.

The people must urge the President and Attorney General Biddle that the necessary ruthless action be taken without hesitation or delay. Such a delegation as visited the President Wednesday, composed of Negro, labor and Jewish leaders, should be multiplied.

JUN 25 1943

In every community throughout the land there has got to be developed immediate collaboration among the representative Negro and white leaders to block further attempts of the fifth column to stir up riots.

The example of the Massachusetts CIO in calling a conference of every type of Negro and white organization should be followed everywhere.

JUN 25 1943

These movements should urge upon the federal government that it proceed at once against all inciters of race or religious hatred.

Columbia, S. C., Record
June 26, 1943

The Detroit Riots

The riot in Detroit is the outgrowth of months of racial difficulties in this center of war production. The causes of it probably lie deep. Gains brought to the Negroes on account of the war apparently were not approved by some sectors of white public opinion even though they were already in effect.

It isn't easy to fix responsibility on either race for the outbreaks; both are responsible. It was set off apparently by a fist fight between a Negro and one white man. The Negroes seem, however, to have taken the lead in the rioting after it got started and of the 23 dead when the army finally moved in, 20 were Negroes. In any race riot the Negroes suffer most; they are a minority.

Governor Harry F. Kelly, of Michigan, erred in hesitating to ask for troops at the beginning. If troops had been called in originally most of the deaths and injuries could have been avoided, the rioting stopped before it got entirely out of hand. There is no excuse for any governor's hesitating in the case of threatened race riots or other such disturbances to use all the force that may be necessary to put them down. Better take unnecessary steps and avoid trouble than attempt to handle the situation with insufficient force.

In the one case you will have used troops when they were not necessary, in the other you will have lost lives which could have been saved and built up animosities which will persist long after quiet is restored.

Walterboro, S. C. Press & Standard
July 8, 1943

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

THE Detroit race riot is to be deplored. Any and all forms of lawlessness are events to regret. The duly constituted courts and officers of the courts and for law enforcement are the only proper instruments for settling disputes and grievances.

Much as the Detroit situation, the worst of its kind in many years in the United States—and in a great Northern industrial city and not in the South—is to be deplored it seems to be in order to point to the case as another in which "they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." Hosea, the ancient Hebrew prophet put this bitter truth in vivid form.

Over a year ago the federal government authorized a great housing project costing several million dollars for negroes in Detroit. It was possible to secure a location which was without objection and yet suitable for the purpose. But some federal official in Washington fixed upon a site in a residential section occupied exclusively by white people. These objected and some of the leading colored citizens of Detroit saw the possibility of trouble and they too urged the Washington official or officials not to insist on putting the new housing project in a neighborhood which objected to it.

But the Washington official or officials insisted and the housing project was built.

When completed and some colored families began to move in quite a riot followed. It took over

brings the whirlwind upon
nwood Index-Journal.

"From a preliminary survey, w
estimate that the two days o
senseless rioting in that one city
cost the nation a worse setback in
the production of planes, tanks,
materiel and other equipment than
it had suffered from all the labor
disputes in the entire nation in the
first two months of 1943 year.

"The rioting will cost our fight-
ting men much needed equipment.

"In accordance with our re-
sponsibility to score maximum pro-
duction by war workers, the WPB
labor production office calls upon
management and labor in every
war industry center cooperate with
civic groups to correct the causes
transmission lines and conveyor
belts in many plant. Productivity

"To the extent that these causes
may involve shortages of com-
munity facilities, our office will
be ready to render every possible
effort to secure remedial action."

JUN 27 1943

Million Man-Hours Lost in Detroit Rioting; WPB Aide Asks Prevention of Racial Strife

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, June 26—Call-
ing attention to the far-reach-
costs of the riot in Detroit,
Joseph D. Keenan, Vice Chairman
labor production in the
first two months of 1943 year.

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munity facilities, our office will
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effort to secure remedial action."

Axis Points to Detroit Riots As Evidence of U. S. Distress

New York, June 24 (AP).—The Nazi-controlled Vichy radio asserted today that Detroit's race riots were symptomatic of "the internal disorganization of a country torn by social injustice, race hatreds, regional disputes, the violence of an irritated proletariat and the gangsterism of a capitalistic police."

The broadcast, recorded by C. B. S., declared the rioting to be both a handicap to war production and an indication of the scope of what the radio said was "the moral and social crisis in the United States."

"First of all it evidences the small interest a great part of the American population shows in the war," the radio commented . . . In the present state the United States do not seem very justified in their ambition of Americanizing the world and of making the twentieth century an American century. Before the start of the war, President Roosevelt already loved to preach to Europe, while at the same time fostering the divisions profitable to his imperialistic policy."

C. B. S. also recorded a Berlin broadcast directed to Asia which said in part:

"The disturbances in Detroit have now come to an end, owing to the intervention of the troops which Roosevelt had dispatched to the scene. There is no doubt about the fact that the problem of capital and labor cannot be solved by the present rulers of the United States."

A Rome broadcast directed to Spain and recorded by C. B. S., quoted what was described as a dispatch from Buenos Aires:

"According to reports received here, American mechanized troops have succeeded in re-establishing order in Detroit. The number of dead and wounded is far in excess of the figures previously anticipated. It is officially confirmed that the number of victims in the riot between whites and Negroes amounts to 30 dead and more than 800 wounded. The Negroes are doing important work, but they are being terrorized and they don't have any right to make demands."

DETROIT RIOT LEAVES FIVE PERSONS DEAD

Birmingham Post

Birmingham, Alabama

Thousands Of Officers Are Called Out To Quell Racial Disturbance

By United Press.

EAST LANSING, June 21.—State police cruiser cars on routes between Detroit and Chicago were advised by radio today to be on the lookout for "a large body of Negroes coming to Detroit from Chicago."

By United Press.

DETROIT, June 21.—Five persons were dead today as 3500 police were called out to quell rioting between Negroes and white people and 2500 Home Guard troops, auxiliary police and State Police were ordered to "stand by" for possible emergency duty.

All of the dead were Negroes, but an unidentified white doctor was near death, and two police officers were in serious condition at Receiving Hospital.

Officer Shot

Police Sergt. Floyd C. Noot, victim of six revolver shots, was reported to have died but police later retracted the statement. They also said an unidentified white man" reported killed in rioting later was found to be the doctor now in critical condition at the hospital.

Noot and Patrolman Ernest J. Hartwick Jr. were wounded while attempting to halt a race riot at Henry and Beaubien in the heart of the Negro districts. Nine other policemen were among more than 200 persons reported injured.

Latest reports said more than 330 persons were arrested in fighting which began last night at Belle Isle Park south of the city and raged today along a two-mile strip on Negro business and residential property east of Woodward-av, the city's main thoroughfare.

Mobilization of state troops and auxiliary police was ordered by Gov. Harry F. Kelly and Capt. Donald C. Leonard, State Civilian Defense director. Kelly was to arrive by special plane here from Columbus, O., today to confer with military and civilian authorities on the situation.

At least 150 persons were reported injured in the rioting and almost 250 persons—both white and Negro—were taken into custody.

Police reported that wearing of "zoot suits" by Negroes was not involved in the fighting. Ill-feeling between "zoot-suiters" and servicemen recently has precipitated rioting in several large cities, including Detroit.

With regard to the Belle Isle fighting, it was reported yesterday's holiday throngs were composed approximately 95 per cent of Negroes. Police said the percentage was out of proportion to the normal ratio.

Appeal For Peace

As the rioting spread, Otis Sanders and the Rev. Horace White, prominent Negro leaders, ordered distribution of 50,000 pamphlets urging Negroes to halt the disturbances immediately. Addressed to the "Negro people of Detroit," the paper said:

"We cannot win this way. Rioting in this fashion will undermine all we have done. We have to do it in the democratic way."

At the same time, police sound trucks toured the Negro districts warning Negroes either to "go about your business peacefully or stay indoors."

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries Jr., and Police Commissioner John Witherspoon were reported to have asked the State Liquor Commission to "dry up" the entire city—close all state-owned or controlled liquor stores. Establishments in the Negro sections already had been closed

UAW Head Hits Prosecutor as Riot Inciter

(Special to The Worker)

DETROIT. — In an intemperate and disgraceful attack upon the Negro people which was immediately branded as a serious incitement to race riots by many civic and labor leaders, Wayne County Prosecutor William Dowling charged this week that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Negro press were the chief instigators of the June 20 anti-Negro insurrection.

The anti-Negro riots filled the hospitals with wounded and the morgue with 35 dead, while 2,000,000 man-hours of work was lost in the war plants in this area.

Defending the NAACP as an organization of which all Americans could be proud, R. J. Thomas took issue with the charge that it was a "trouble maker" made by Dowling and repeated by Police Commissioner Witherspoon. He said:

"The NAACP is a trouble making organization in the sense that any one that protests against injustice is a trouble maker, in the sense that unions are trouble makers for unfair employers and in the same sense that those who believe in liberty are trouble makers for Hitler."

Thomas characterized Dowling's statements as the "most serious incitation to race riots we have had since the riots themselves."

Dowling made these charges to a sub-committee of the Mayor's inter-racial committee which appeared before him with the request for a grand jury investigation. Dowling declared that the NAACP would be the first one indicted if such a grand jury were called and then proceeded to peremptorily deny the request stating that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant one being called.

He also asserted that the Negro press had done much to stir up ill feelings among their own people for the "sole purpose of selling their yellow newspapers."

PROTECTS KKK

Dowling further declared that the Sojourner Truth riots were instigated by thugs sent by the NAACP and later defended by it. He did this in the face of the indictment by the Federal government of three ring leaders closely associated with Ku Klux Klan and the National Workers League who unfortunately are still free and carrying on their anti-Negro campaign conducted previous to the riots.

Completely absolved of all responsibility in the riots and in the hate strikes which took place at the Packard Motor Company by Dowling was the Ku Klux Klan.

Taking his cue from the prosecutor's attack on the Negro people, Police Commissioner Witherspoon who was condemned for his inefficiency and who made many anti-Negro statements during the riots broke into print. He spoke of the tremendous increase of the belligerence of Negroes in the period preceding the riots and asserted that 99 per cent of all altercations were provoked by Negroes.

SCORE PROSECUTOR

Negro editors, R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers, CIO, Shelton Tappes, secretary of Ford Local 600, UAW, the NAACP, various union locals and many civic leaders immediately condemned the irresponsible charges made by Dowling and intensified their demand for a grand jury investigation stating in the face of such statements it must absolutely be called.

"Prosecutor Dowling's ill-timed and ill-advised statement to the Mayor's committee and the wide publicity it received in the press, has now made the calling of a grand jury imperative for the best interests of our state and city," said State Senator Charles C. Diggs, who added that he was demanding that the attorney general of Michigan call a grand jury. Similar statements were made by others.

The NAACP issued a legal brief which flatly contradicted Dowling's assertion that insufficient evidence made the grand jury inadvisable. The report stated that there are more affidavits than sufficient to justify the calling of a special grand jury to investigate the non-feasance and malfeasance of the police as a contributing factor in the Detroit riots.

The report includes many charges filed by Negroes which would prove that the "police enforced the law under an unequal hand. It was said that the police "used persuasion rather than firm action with the rioters while against the Negroes they used the ultimate in force—night sticks, revolvers, riot guns, sub-machine guns and deer rifles."

In a joint statement, Louis Martin, editor of the Michigan **Chronicle,** McCall of the Detroit **Tribune,** and John R. Williams, editor of the Detroit edition of the Pittsburgh **Courier,** stated that "the Negro people does not seek to stir up racial prejudice as charged, but to expose intolerance and discrimination for the public good. Racial prejudice is a disease which is detrimental to democracy."

DEFENDS DOWLING

Rising to the defense of Dowling was the Detroit **News** which has been conducting a steady campaign since the riots to whitewash the police of all charges of brutality and partiality as well as the mayor and police commissioner of their share of responsibility. In an editorial hailing Dowling's statement, the **News** compares the KKK to the NAACP. It says, "It is very likely, could it be proved, for example, that organizations like the Ku Klux Klan had contributed to the riots by preaching race hatred. But, repulsive though that is, it is no more an indictable crime than the preaching of 'militancy' by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as mentioned by the prosecutor."

The campaign to whitewash the subversive elements of all responsibility for the riots started when only three people had been killed on the first morning of the riots, long before there was any investigation by anybody. Statements to that effect were made by the mayor, the police commissioner and were followed by the governor and various other agencies.

This has alarmed all law-abiding citizens of Detroit because it cannot be interpreted as anything else than tacit encouragement to these elements. Dowling's charges have culminated a series of whitewash statements which ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime. For example, the FBI has entirely a differ-

Names of the four were not disclosed by police. They are to be questioned by Prosecutor William E. Dowling, who announced the arrest of a Negro whom he described as "key figure" in the riots.

The squad detectives have been investigating 13 slayings listed shortly before midnight June 20 four white youths and one Negro were beating Negroes those held had said he was in the riots that brought federal troops to Belle Isle. gang which shot and killed two Negroes

Confession To Being In Riot Gang Reported

DETROIT—(AP)— Police of the "spontaneous combustion." For that reason the demand for a grand jury investigation is growing by leaps and bounds.

Detroit Youth Blame KKK for Race Riots

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

JUN 30 1943

(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

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But Detroit youth leaders do not want the nation to accept these references as a picture of this city's young people.

Many dramatic demonstrations indicated how the overwhelming majority of the youth reacted to the anti-Negro. Thirty white and 25 Negro young men in the army at Camp McCoy, Wis., showed how they in their letter to the Mayor of Detroit, describing the anti-Negro riots as a "stab in the back" of the nation's war effort.

Equally dramatic was the high-school graduation exercise from which white youths marched out courageously beside their Negro classmates to protect them from a threatening mob.

Other stories not so dramatic on the surface show the daily work carried on by youth organizations to offset the effects of the riots.

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A statement to Detroit youth was issued jointly during the outbreaks by Donald Thurber, executive secretary of the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Council, and Arthur Bowman, chairman of the Negro Youth Council for Victory and Democracy. The statement declared:

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"This was not caused by a chance fist-fight. Though many ordinary Negro and white citizens were involved, through prejudice, panic or ignorance, this does not explain it either. Monday's outbreak can only be understood as the fruit of long-standing ignorance and prejudice, deliberately fanned into flame in this war period by the Ku Klux Klan and other forces which are either allied with the Axis Fifth Column or aid the Fifth Column by placing race prejudice ahead of America's victory in the war. This was insurrectionary activity."

The statement called upon white youth leaders to take "immediately friendly steps," through churches, schools, in the shop and community, to "reassure the Negro youth of our friendship and common cause."

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YCL BRANDS INCITERS

The Young Communist League of Michigan, representing white and Negro youth, likewise branded the anti-Negro riots as the work of the fifth column and as an insurrection.

The YCL urged the following 5-point program:

"1. The immediate calling of special assemblies in elementary and high schools to explain the riots and put the blame where it belongs—on the Axis Fifth Column.

"2. The revision of school programs in line with Superintendent of Schools Warren Bow's suggestion that Negro and white youth be taught their democratic traditions and made to understand the great role of Negro Americans in American history and in the present war effort.

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Public Gives Reasons For Race Disturbances In Gallup Survey

News Bakersfield

Detroit Citizens Say Too Many Floaters From South, Living Conditions, War Nerves

BY GEORGE GALLUP
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J. — President Roosevelt has announced that the attorney general and heads of a number of governmental agencies will begin a study of race riots.

So many factors are involved that only a group of experts can probably get at the bottom of these disturbances, which have flared up in this war just as they did in the last war.

Meanwhile, it is of interest and importance to know what people of the country think is the real cause of such riots as Detroit recently had.

To find out just how the man-in-the-street explains these disturbances, the Institute had field reporters throughout the nation put this question to a representative cross-section of men and women:

"What do you think if real cause of race riots such as Detroit has had?"

No answers were suggested. Each person was called on to give his own ideas. Residents of Detroit were asked the question along with people in all other major cities and sections of the country. Having had the advantage of seeing at close range the recent riot, Detroiters' views have particular interest.

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DETROIT OPINIONS — A high percentage of the persons interviewed in Detroit are inclined to ascribe the recent trouble there to "floaters and drifters attracted to the city by war work." Particularly, they are inclined to blame Southerners who have recently taken jobs in Detroit, and the lack of segregation of races both in the city proper and in Detroit factories. Others in Detroit are inclined to blame "young hoodlums" of both races and the present day "fast living" in the city, as well as bad housing conditions. A few typical comments of Detroiters are as follows:

"I think they've got the scum of the country here, and neither one likes the smell of the other. . . . Mrs. Roosevelt is partly to blame because she backs up the colored race all over the South. . . . Straight hoodlums in both races. . . . Factory jobs put too many Negroes too close to whites, and whites don't like it. . . . Beer gardens stay open too late; it's the young people. . . . Detroit's a fast town; things are geared high; the influx of great numbers of Negroes have given the whites the jitters. . . . Too many floaters from the South caused the riots, not the people from Detroit."

White persons interviewed in states south of the Mason-Dixon line blame lack of segregation, "trying to put Negroes and whites on an equal basis," labor leaders, and politics. Some white persons in the South think the trouble lies in the fact that "the Northerners don't understand the Negro." A few are inclined to blame agitators and ignorant people.

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Here are some of the comments from across the nation: "Labor causes the trouble. . . . It's the saboteurs. . . . High wages to colored people does it. . . . Ignorance and intolerance. . . . Mixture of races on the same job. . . . Unrest due to war. . . . Fundamental race hatred. . . . Darkies are getting out of hand. . . . Strikes. . . . Bad living conditions. The Negroes up North think they are even better than the whites . . . Politics. . . . Rumors. . . . Jealousy between races is the cause. . . . Negroes are getting too cocky from too much money."

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"I . . . very earnestly and solemnly beg that the governors of all states, the law officers of every community, and, above all, the men and women of every community in the United States cooperate . . . to make an end of this disgraceful evil."

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Most Rioters In Detroit Not Part of War Influx

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

Detroit, June 26 (AP)—A sociologist who directed an inquiry among race rioters reported tonight the large war-induced influx of workers from the South and other sections was "almost no factor" in last Monday's outbreak of fighting between Negroes and white persons.

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JUN 27 1943

Labor Chairman Thomas Explains Why UAW Did Not Help Quell the Detroit Riots

Baltimore, Md. Sun

JUN 27 1943

By EDWARD S. LEWIS

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NEW YORK—I got my first opportunity to meet R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers Union, largest labor union in the world, at a public meeting sponsored by the United Student Assembly on Friday. Explaining why the UAW did not step in to help quell Detroit riots, Mr. Thomas said that he was besieged by union members who wanted to help, but he refused because the opposition would definitely brand the union as a vigilante group. He also held that only Federal troops could bring

Victim's Son Held By Japs.

One of the additional deaths reported today was that of John Holyak, 59-year-old war worker whose son is a Japanese prisoner after being captured on Bataan. Holyak was attacked by a Monday night, was among group of Negro youths.

Police expressed belief that the deaths of Stanley Kusmiecz, Hamtramck, found badly beaten last Monday, and of an unidentified Negro whose body was taken from the Detroit River Friday, also resulted from injuries received in the rioting. The Negro's head had been beaten

61-1943

Michigan

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New York, N. Y. Philadelphia

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Most Riots In Detroit Not Part of War Influx

Louisville, Ky. Courier-Journal

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Total deaths resulting from the twenty-four hours of rioting that swept this city rose to thirty-four today. Of those twenty-five were Negroes, nine whites.

Midnight Curfew Continues.

The midnight curfew clamped on the city for the week end, enforced by federal troops who have been on duty here since Monday night.

Dr. Ramsay and his staff conducted their inquiry at the request of Gov. Harry F. Kelly of Michigan, seeking [illegible] backgrounds of those who participated in the rioting. The Negroes also resulted from injuries received in the rioting. The Negroes head had been beaten.

Labor Chairman President Thomas Baltimore, Md. Explains Why UAWU Did Not Help Quell the Detroit Rioters

By EDWARD S. LEWIS

Feared Brand on Union

NEW YORK—I got my first opportunity to meet R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers Union, largest labor union in the world, at a public meeting sponsored by the United Student Assembly on Friday. Explaining why the UAW did not step in to help quell Detroit riots, Mr. Thomas said that he was besieged by union members who wanted to help, but he refused because the opposition would definitely brand the union as a vigilante group. He also held that only Federal troops could bring

the chaotic condition under control, and his predictions proved correct.

Commenting on progress made in educating the rank and file of CIO membership on unity between white and colored workers in newly formed organizations, Mr. Thomas said that at the emergency meeting called by the executive council it had agreed to take steps in this direction.

Better Race Relations

I have recently received a confidential memorandum which definitely indicates that the Committee on Discrimination in the CIO is initiating a pointed and practical program for building up better race relations in the unions.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the bi-racial committee appointed by the mayor in Detroit was already at work and he felt that his eight-point program would receive closest attention.

During the days of the union's initial work, Mr. Thomas stated, he had said to those who made inquiries about colored workers, that they would wait until the majority of white workers had been organized and then give attention to this problem.

One of his able colored friends asked him what means had been taken to secure the interest of the colored workers. This question provided the clue to subsequent developments because Mr. Thomas and his associates took immediate steps to intensify the campaign among colored workers.

Some idea of the popularity of Mr. Thomas in Detroit can be gained from the graphic report of the race riot which he made from his visits in colored neighborhoods during the period of the upheaval. Any white person not known in the colored community in Detroit would certainly have been attacked, but Mr. Thomas had countless friends whom he had cultivated during the early struggles of his union.

I was deeply impressed with this dynamic leader who has gone to the forefront in the Detroit crisis. For the first time in the history of this country, a leader with almost a million organized colored and white workers has taken the initiative in a challenging crisis and has held it in spite of tough opposition.

Army Enforces Calm In Detroit, Fights Subside

23 Persons Are Killed, 700 Injured In Fight; Roosevelt Asks Quiet

DETROIT—(AP)—Grim, steel-helmeted federal troops backing their commands with rifles and machine guns enforced calm Tuesday in riot-torn sections of war-busy Detroit where 23 persons—20 of them Negroes—were killed and 700 injured in racial fighting Monday.

The soldiers, marching on patrol past shattered stores and residences or rolling through empty streets in jeeps and armored cars, operated under the authority of a presidential proclamation and under orders from their officers to "fix your bayonets, load your guns and don't take anything anything from anybody."

White and Negro antagonists who engaged in bloody battling that even swirled about Detroit's venerable city hall on downtown Woodward Avenue, skulked into hiding.

Under an order by Gov. Harry Kelly barring assembly of persons in Wayne (Detroit), Oakland and Macomb Counties, an American League baseball game between the Detroit and Cleveland teams scheduled for 8 p.m. (E. W. T.) Tuesday was postponed. Officials of the Detroit club hoped it would be possible to play a double-header Wednesday.

Officials of the Detroit race track and operators of theaters throughout the three-county area awaited the results of a conference with Gov. Kelly at noon before announcing their plans.

What provoked the widespread outburst of violence that quickly got out of control of Detroit's force of 3,500 policemen remained undetermined. The spark that touched it off was an isolated fist fight on the Belle Isle Bridge Sunday night, underlying racial unrest has been recognized to exist here for three years.

* * *

JOHN S. BUGAS, HEAD of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said "We have no evidence that the riot was in any way planned or organized," and added there was "no indication that Axis propaganda or any foreign power had anything to do with the riot."

White and Negro civic leaders in formal statements following a conference with Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., blamed the rioting on an organized national fifth-column conspiracy to break our national unity and disrupt the home production front."

Approximately 1,300 persons were arrested during the widespread violence as whites and Negroes alike were attacked, automobiles overturned, streetcar windows broken, and stores looted.

Police estimated 85 per cent of those held were Negroes. Many were detained in state troops' armories because police lacked facilities for handling them. Many youngsters of teen age who were guilty of no greater offense than violating the 10 p.m. curfew imposed by the governor, were released and sent home.

Disposition of the rioters to open violence faded rapidly Monday night as the soldiers moved in. The troops, rolling up in trucks and jeeps and armed with rifles and machine guns, reached Cadillac Square, heart of the city, an hour before midnight. Word of their arrival spread quickly. Within 30 minutes, police said, the situation had much improved.

By midnight the situation seemed under full control.

* * *

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, in a proclamation from Washington, ordered that "all persons engaged in unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings [illegible] peaceably to their homes." He called on "all good citizens" to "uphold the laws and preserve the public peace."

At 2 a.m. Brig. Gen. William Guthner of the Sixth Service Command, in charge of the troops, reported no further serious trouble.

"The troops have met with no violence and have used no violence," Gen. Guthner said.

Gen. Guthner, assigned to Detroit by Maj. Gen. H. S. Aurand, commanding officer of the Sixth Service Command, disclosed that more troops were being held in reserve and that soldier forces would be amplified so that they could patrol the public transportation lines. Fights on streetcars had become so extensive that some crew men refused to work. Mayor Edward J. Jeffries ordered all transport employes to return to the job Tuesday, however.

Federal troops came to the city upon Gov. Harry F. Kelly's request as rioting swelled to new peaks late Monday night with both mob fights and individual battles so numerous that police were virtually helpless.

In that fight, Patrolman Lawrence Adams was wounded in the groin. Residents in neighboring buildings cowered behind locked and barricaded doors.

* * *

TIME AND AGAIN FIGHTS broke out in the Hastings Street district, a section of the city near downtown known as "Paradise Valley." It was at this point that the federal troops concentrated attention upon their arrival.

In the nearly 24 hours of almost constant fighting, automobiles were upset and set afire, stores were pillaged, and windows wantonly smashed. One brickbat killed a Negro woman.

Loot was extensive and many arrests were made for theft. In the hospitals nurses and doctors were hard-pressed to take care of the injured brought there in ambulances with sirens screaming and in private cars.

The governor's order, announcing military rule with the state's militia directed to assist local officers, covered the tri-county area known as "Metropolitan Detroit" with more than 2,000,000 inhabitants. This area, strategic in war production, covers Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Rioters, however, ignored the curfew order. Fights continued, and police squad cars dashed up and down in answer to alarms. Then came the governor's request for troops and upon their appearance rioting subsided almost immediately.

The Army Tuesday began an investigation to determine the riots' effect on war production. Major factories kept production going but reported that many workers, both Negro and white, failed to come to work.

Climaxing three years of unrest between Negro and white residents, the rioting began about midnight Sunday. A fight on a bridge over the Detroit River to famous Belle Isle, amusement spot, seemingly minor at first, spread ultimately into a bedlam.

There had been previous flare-up in this smouldering situation, aggravated in recent months by housing shortages and heavy influx of war workers from other sections of the country.

On Sunday, June 13, Negro and white youth clashed in suburban Inkster and last week there was a clash of similar nature at an amusement park.

There had also been a number of racial incidents on the factory production lines. The most important of these was early in June at the Packard Motor Company, where a strike was attributed to white workers' protests against "upgrading" of Negro workers.

White and Negro leaders joined in deploring both the rioting and the conditions behind them and called for renewed efforts to solve the basic causes.

SCENE OF RIOTS SLAVES' HAVEN

'Story Of Detroit' Gives Details Of Aid For Runaways

BY FELIX B. WOLD

DETROIT, July 22—(AP)—There's a paradox in racial disaffections in Detroit, the city which once was a haven for the very forebears of the Negroes who fought with white men in the June 21 riots which cost 34 lives.

Since Negro slaves fled from the South to Detroit four score years and more ago, Detroit has changed, of course, multiplying in nationalities as well as size as it grew from a fur trading post to one of the world's greatest industrial cities.

Thus modern America knows Detroit, where war plants now thunder day and night, mainly as the birthplace of the automobile industry. "F. O. B. Detroit," Henry Ford, General Motors, Chrysler—those are familiar.

There was a time, however, when the name of John Brown, the Abolitionist whose body "lies a-moulding in the grave," was linked with Detroit, and the city which was to become the world's motorcar capital was a mecca for fugitive slaves.

Runaway Slaves Aided

In the dramatic history of the 242-year-old community, the service of certain of its citizens to slaves in flight ranks in interest with the chapters on Detroit's part in the French and Indian Wars, the opening of the Great Lakes and the automobile.

Only a river's width from Canada, Detroit was a northern terminus of the celebrated Underground railway of pre-Civil War days, so important that John Brown made the city a headquarters of his abolition movement.

Because of Detroit's proximity to Canada, the city was ideally located for the interests of the underground. Negroes were hidden here by sympathizers. When the road was clear, out they went to cross the Detroit or St. Clair River into Canada.

While the city paid full official respects to the rights of slaveholders at the time and cooperated in extradition proceedings to send slaves back to their owners, Abolitionists here included many persons willing to defy the law.

Opinion Is Divided

As a result, up to President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, fugitive slaves received considerable illegal assistance. Some residents of Detriot had slaves of their own, and public opinion was divided on the subject.

Details of the underground's secret operations are told in "The Story of Detroit" by the late George C. Catlin, who was librarian of The Detroit News.

The underground extended into Michigan from Indiana and Ohio. In Michigan, as elsewhere, each stop was a night's travel from the next, and the runaway slave was spirited along the route to Detroit by trusted members of the underground's organization.

In March of 1859, the year he was executed, John Brown, himself, brought 14 Missouri slaves to Detroit, and he was said at that time to have revealed to sympathizers here his intentions to effect a "wholesale delivery" of slaves in Northern Virginia.

Brown's Harper's Ferry raid followed in October. In December he was hanged.

One of the active Abolitionists and underground leaders in Detroit was Seymour Finney, whose "Finney House" stood at a street intersection where rioters fought last month.

Farmer Hides Slaves

Farmer Peter Lerrich was another. He enlarged his Spring house so that several slaves could hide there at the same time, and vines were planted to camouflage the entrance. Lerrich transplanted a tall fir balsam to the hilltop and the tree was referred to as the "Beacon Tree" to guide the runaways to the hiding place.

The Lerrich family kept the place stored with food, and there was a signal agreed upon by which the slaves would shelter in the cave. When that signaled the family was displayed, the family traveled the road and visited barns and outhouses in search of them."

Catlin's story relates. "Three scores of fugitives found daylight hours and made preparations for passing the fugitives

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Michigan

Truth About Detroit

THE REPORT, made to Governor Kelly of Michigan, by a fact-finding committee which he had appointed to investigate the Detroit race riot, calls for a discussion it seems not to be getting in the Northern and Eastern press which, at the time of the violence, was free with its imputations that the South somehow was to blame.

The facts as found by the committee are as follows:

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1. The rioting was started by a Negro who shortly before midnight of Sunday, June 20, shouted to 200 or 300 Negroes drinking and jiving in a "social club" that there was rioting at Belle Isle, a public park. This Negro, one Leo Tipton, using the public address system of the club, said that whites had killed "a colored lady and her baby," then he yelled: "Everybody get their hat and coat and come on. There is free transportation outside." The carousers in the hall rushed out, seized automobiles and started on their riotous attacks on all whites whom they encountered.

2. The rioting began shortly after midnight in the East Side Negro area. There was no retaliation by whites until 4 a. m. Monday.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal

3. There was "no preconceived or premeditated organization" on either side. The riot was *not* inspired by subversive enemy influence, nor by any organized force from the South.

4. "The most significant factor in precipitating the racial tension in Detroit is the positive exhortation by many Negro leaders to be 'militant' in the struggle for racial equality," the report said. The committee specifically cited an article by a Negro writer in the Negro paper, *The Detroit Tribune, as a* "clearly intended appeal to extract 'justice' by violence." "Such appeals," the committee continues, "unfortunately have been commonplace in Negro newspapers. . . . Some self-designated Negro leaders must share with the newspapers responsibility for the attitude of certain Negro elements."

5. A second report, submitted to the Governor by Dr. C. P. Ramsey of the Michigan Children's Institute, and based on interviews with the rioters, proved that the majority of the rioters were not recent migrants to Detroit. Seventy-four per cent had lived in Detroit more than five years.

In short, the Detroit riot arose from factors precisely identical with those in Harlem a short time later. It was started by hoodlums of the Negro race, inflamed by criminally irresponsible leadership of individuals and the Negro press, and incited to action by false reports.

In the Harlem case, the police, knowing the inevitability of such an outbreak, were able to localize it before the roughs and toughs among the whites had swung into retaliatory violence, in which—as always happens—the minority got the worse of the murder and mayhem.

The newspapers at the North and the East contribute nothing to the problem by blaming the South for race trouble and then dropping the subject when the facts are made public. It is a disservice to the Negroes to feed them with lies than can only inflame passions.

It would be a service to good Negroes everywhere to give them the truth, upon which they may forward the efforts of their wise leaders and the wise leaders of the whites to establish a working basis for the common good.

Reign Of Terror Grips Detroit As Race Riot Flares

June 25, 1943

Twenty-Six Dead And 700 Wounded — U. S. Army Troops Restore Order

Violent race riots in Detroit, Michigan, this week left 25 dead and nearly 700 injured. Steel helmeted motorized army troops restored law and order. Production slumped in war plants on account of absenteeism among negro workers.

Press dispatches of Wednesday indicate that the situation had improved and that negroes are going back to their jobs as the steel helmeted troops continued to patrol the streets of Detroit.

The troops moved into the city under the direct orders of President Roosevelt to halt the rioting after a 24-hour reign of terror had swept the city, left many dead and wounded, with property damage running into the thousands of dollars.

NEGROES DETAIL POLICE ACTS IN DETROIT RIOTING

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Assert Charges Warrant Special Grand Jury.

JUL 29 1943

Detroit, Mich., July 28 (AP).—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced today that it had presented to Mayor Edward Jeffries a detailed statement of charges of acts by the police department and others in the recent race riots.

Thru its special counsel, Thurgood Marshall, the association asserted that affidavits it has taken "are more than sufficient to justify calling of a special grand jury."

The association's announcement followed the rejection by Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling of a request by a subcommittee of Mayor Jeffries' interracial peace board for a one man grand jury investigation of the riots and the prosecutor's remarks that the N. A. A. C. P. and the Negro press had been contributing factors to the rioting of last June 21.

Discrimination Charged.

Charging that Detroit police "enforced the law under an unequal hand," the N. A. A. C. P. report asserts:

"They used 'persuasion' rather than firm action with white rioters while against Negroes they used the ultimate in force—night sticks, revolvers, riot guns, submachine guns, and deer rifles.

JUL 29 1943

"As a result, 25 of the 34 persons killed were Negroes. Of the 25 Negroes killed, 17 were killed by police. . . ."

Prosecutor Dowling's remarks brought immediate comment also from R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers [CIO], various members of the interracial peace board, and others.

Backed by Police Head.

John Witherspoon, police commissioner, said he agreed entirely with the prosecutor's statements. Thomas termed it the most serious incitation to race riots we have had since the riots themselves," adding:

"If Dowling believes that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is responsible for the riots, it is his sworn duty to present evidence before a grand jury."

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CURFEW RELAXED AS DETROIT GOES

BACK TO NORMAL

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Stores Told to Reopen in Negro Area.

Detroit, Mich., June 24 (AP).—Detroit approached normal today and Gov. Harry F. Kelly modified emergency restrictions including a general curfew and liquor ban imposed Monday as a means of curbing race rioting that brought death to more than 30 persons and injury to nearly 800.

All restrictions were lifted in the outlying metropolitan areas of Macomb and Oakland counties, while in Wayne county [Detroit] tonight's curfew was set for midnight, instead of 10 p. m., liquor sale by the glass was permitted from 7 a. m. to 10 p. m., and places of amusement were allowed to remain open until 11 p. m. Since Monday all theaters had been forced to close at 9 p. m.

JUN 25 1943

Returns to Normalcy.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries Jr. recommended that restrictions be eased after Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon reported that the city was fast reutrning to normalcy.

Mayor Jeffries, in fact, described Wednesday night as "even quieter than normal" and advised proprietors of business establishments in the 'Paradise valley," Negro section that they might safely reopen their stores, promising "ample police protection."

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A force of 3,800 federal troops under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner of the 6th service command continued to patrol city streets and, according to Gen. Guthner, will remain at least until the week-end.

Investigation Underway.

Both here and in Washington measures were taken to investigate causes of the bitter 24 hours of mob fighting that subsided Monday night on arrival of the military.

A committee composed of Atty. Gen. Herbert J. Rushton, State Police Commissioner Oscar C. Olander, Wayne County Prosecutor William E. Dowling, and Commissioner Witherspoon, named by Gov. Kelly to conduct an inquiry, met today.

Dowling said that "there is no evidence at present that the riot was planned or conceived by enemy agents or any one else" and added that he saw no necessity for calling a special grand jury.

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The total of 90 day sentences imposed on rioters reached 152 by this afternoon in recorder's court—126 of them Negroes and 26 white. Many of both races were under bonds ranging up to $2,500 pending trial.

State Troops Ordered Out To Aid Police

World-Telegram
New York, N.Y.

8 Negroes, 2 Whites Killed, 200 Injured As Fighting Continues

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, June 21.—Widespread race riots that cost the lives of eight Negroes and two whites, one a physician, and resulted in more than 200 injuries, flared intermittently this afternoon.

[State police cruiser cars on routes between Detroit and Chicago were advised by radio from Lansing to be on the lookout for "a large body of Negroes coming to Detroit from Chicago, the United Press reported.]

Governor Kelly of Michigan, before speeding to Detroit from Columbus by army bomber, ordered Michigan state police and state troops mobilized to preserve order.

Martial Law Sought.

Mayor Jeffries of Detroit said he would ask the Governor to declare martial law in the city.

About 75 military policemen, drawn chiefly from an Army post at suburban River Rouge, arrived at police headquarters this afternoon. They were to be assigned to patrol duty to keep service men out of the riot areas, police officials said.

Tear gas was used within a stone's throw of City Hall when a group chased a Negro youth from Monroe Ave. into the Campus Martius, on the east side of Woodward Ave. Officers used the gas to disperse the crowd which gathered, many of them shoppers.

The physician, who was fatally beaten as he was answering a call in the riot area was identified as Dr. Joseph De Horatiis.

White Man Shot.

A police sergeant was critically wounded in a gun fight with a Negro store-looting gang.

John Frailich, 43, Romulus, a white man, was found shot to death at Bush and Warren Aves. this afternoon. Police said he was shot through the chest.

The outbreaks, which spread

JUN 21 1943

Groups of Negroes and whites milled about on street corners hurling stones and bricks at passing automobiles bearing members of both races. Automobiles were overturned. Police reported every window on Hastings St., "Paradise Valley" of the Detroit Negro section, broken for a distance of 25 blocks.

Hospitals were crowded with persons awaiting treatment of injuries.

Before noon police had arrested 326 persons on charges ranging from felonious assault to disturbing the peace and carrying concealed weapons.

All saloons in Detroit and suburban Hamtramck were ordered closed. Police directed pawnshop and hardware operators to remove from windows and shelves all stocks of guns, ammunition and knives and to lock them in safes.

Inspector Robert Turner, harbormaster at Belle Isle, said the rioting started about 10:30 Sunday night on the broad bridge that leads from Jefferson Ave. to Belle Isle, recreation park in the Detroit River, Mr. Turner said the hot Sunday brought about 50,000 persons to the island, "90 per cent of them Negro," and that there were several minor fights during the day. He said he believed a minor squabble on the bridge in the midst of the traffic jam probably caused the outberak.

Disorder Spreads.

The disorder spread to Jefferson Ave. and then into the main Negro district, which lies immediately east of Woodward Ave., Detroit's main street, which runs approximately north and south.

In an effort to control the situation, several hundred sailors from the naval armory which adjoins the Belle Isle bridge were strung in a line across Jefferson Ave., blocking off traffic.

The 1940 U. S. census gave Detroit 149,119 Negroes out of a total population of 1,623,452.

There have been a number of minor racial incidents in Detroit in recent months and several strikes have occurred at war factories over the racial issue. The most important of these was early in June at the Packard Motor Car Co., following which R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (CIO), said he had "absolute evidence" that it had been promoted by "agents of the Ku Klux Klan, acting for the enemy."

The Ku Klux Klan denied that it had anything to do with the Packard strike.

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DETROIT RIOT DECRIED BY SOCIAL WORKERS

14 Heads of Units Put Blame on Citizens' Apathy

Fourteen leaders of national organizations seeking to promote interracial understanding issued a joint statement yesterday warning that "no industrial center of any size in the United States can look complacently or even objectively on what has happend in Detroit."

"That outrage," said the statement released by William H. Goodwin, president of the National Urban League, "can be repeated in any one of these other cities and it can happen overnight for the reason that too many of our good citizens have left to too few an active interest in combating the prejudices which condition the relations between the dominant and minority groups."

The statement, prepared at a meeting at the Russell Sage Foundation, urged that similar meetings "be organized at once in other cities as bases for local remedial action and for conferences with the responsible public officials."

Pointing out that responsible eyewitnesses to the rioting in Detroit "allege that Negroes have been victimized by the police in the name of law and order as well as by lawless mobs," the statement said interviews with local officials would indicate to determine not only the preparations but more particularly the attitude of those officials toward prevention of such outrages as have scarred Detroit."

Others signing the joint statement were Eugene E. Barnett, general secretary of the National Council, Y. M. C. A.; Lester B. Granger, executive secretary, National Urban League; Miss Elsie Harper, secretary of the Public Affairs Committee, National Board, Y. W. C. A.; Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary of the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; the Rev. Laurence T. Hosie, director of Labor Temple; Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, educational director, Phelps Stokes Fund; Mrs. Adah Kieffer, National Board member, Y. W. C. A.; the Rev. John LaFarge, S. J., executive editor of America; James Myers, industrial secretary, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Harold Stevens, president of the Catholic Interracial Council; Prentice Thomas, assistant special counsel, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Dr. Channing H. Tobias, senior secretary for Colored Work, National Council, Y. M. C. A., and Mrs. Helen Wilkins, secretary for Interracial Education, National Board, Y. W. C. A.

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"DETROIT RIOT REPORT DESTROYS CONFIDENCE IN LAW"!

The Union

New York—The report on the Detroit riot by Governor Harry F. Kelly's fact finding commission "solves nothing, further embitters Negroes, and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities."

This was the comment of Walter White, NAACP secretary, upon reading the full text as published in Detroit dailies August 11.

The report blamed Negroes for the riot and praised the police, saying "the ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators."

Two members of the governor's committee were Prosecuting Attorney William E. Dowling of Wayne county (which includes Detroit) who made a statement several weeks ago blaming the NAACP by name for the riot, and Detroit Police Commissioner John E. Witherspoon, whose police force killed 17 of the 25 dead Negroes, while permitting white mobs to roam at will and beat up Negroes, even those under the "protection" of the police.

The NAACP said Witherspoon's presence on the committee "is undoubtedly responsible for this whitewashing of the police force."

"Negroes," said the NAACP, "have asked nothing but simple justice and the report to the governor calls them agitators."

SEP 16 1943

SEP 16 1943

Racial Conflict

BY ROBERT QUILLEN

This may seem much ado about nothing, but it isn't. It is the story of a picture—a photograph of a white man attacking a Negro during the Detroit riots.

Colliers used the picture to help illustrate an article by Walter Davenport entitled "Race Riots Coming." It is a remarkable action picture"—the kind news photographers pray for but seldom get. It has been distributed all over the world.

After telling how much it has helped the Negro cause, the Colliers article describes it as follows: "The photograph of the Negro with his arms being held by two policemen while he was being struck in the face by a white hoodlum, and a mounted cop watched."

Now that description would give any ordinary reader a mental picture of two burly cops holding a struggling Negro helpless so a white bully could beat him up without risk, while a third cop on a horse looked on with approval and thus shared the guilt.

Doubtless you have seen the picture. If not, please examine it carefully now. It shows a split second of arrested action—a momentary fragment of drama—yet it makes the whole story unmistakably clear.

A tall, middle-aged, very erect Negro with strong Roman features is walking in the middle of the street between two policemen. In the background and at one side appear 10 white men and two white women, evidently part of a crowd walking to keep up with the excitement.

The policeman on the Negro's left, though walking forward, has turned slightly toward the Negro in order to look behind him at the crowd. He has reached over with his left hand and placed it lightly on the Negro's upper arm. The fingers are not closed. His right arm, the one nearest the Negro, is hanging down.

The policeman walking at the Negro's right is not touching him at all. His hands, with palms forward, are lifted in the act of warding off an assailant.

This assailant, a white man whose class is obvious, is not attacking the policeman. He has darted from the crowd to attack the Negro. The camera caught him in the act, just as his open hand struck the Negro's jaw.

The mounted cop, riding guard close behind the officers, is not watching this action. He has turned his head slightly to the right and apparently is watching another white man who is drawing too close.

The Negro's hands and arms are free. Given a moment more, he could have warded off the blow. In fact, he is raising his left hand, apparently for that purpose.

The policemen are not holding him "while he is being struck." They are quite obviously getting him away from the crowd. Whether it was an arrest or a rescue, they are clearly trying to protect the Negro.

The Colliers interpretation of the picture is untrue and unfair. And that kind of reporting is responsible for much of the bitterness that causes race riots.

OCT 1943

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Rally Sunday to Answer Fascists

New York, N. Y.

By Eugene Gordon

Two of New York's militant and progressive anti-fascist organizations, the Negro Labor Victory Committee and the Peoples Committee, reported yesterday that they had received threatening letters from sources [illegible] of a fascist character. One of the letters was written on KKK stationery.

Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, 67 W. 125th St., received a letter bearing a New York postmark and addressed to him at the Hotel Pennsylvania, where he had held a press conference following his return from an investigation trip to Detroit last week.

This unsigned letter calls Mr. Collins a "liar" for saying that the Detroit insurrection and anti-Negro pogroms were presumably inspired by the Ku Klux Klan and other fascist-minded and fifth-column elements.

LYNCHING THREAT

Referring to the beating and killing of Negro men and women in Detroit, the letter to Mr. Collins says that its writer "was a witness to part of this and the Negro asked for it and believe me he deserved it and by the way this same thing is going to happen in New York very soon because the n— is to damned fresh being they were allowed equal rights hut they abuse this privilege."

The spelling and the punctuation—or lack of punctuation—are threatener's own.

The letter added: "If these muggings don't stop I am afraid you will also invite lynchings."

The letter to Joseph Ford, secretary of the Peoples Committee, of which City Councilman Adam Clayton Powell is chairman, was written on Ku Klux Klan letterhead paper bearing the legend, "Women and Men of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., of the State of New York." The envelope bore a New York postmark. The substance of this letter was that the Klan would "get" members of the Peoples Committee for its win-the-war activities and its fights in behalf of the Negro people.

RALLY ON SUNDAY

The Negro Labor Victory Committee and the Peoples Committee are jointly sponsoring this coming Sunday's "Ounce of Prevention" rally at the Golden Gate, 142nd St. and Lenox Ave., beginning at 3 P.M. Councilman Powell, as a delegate from the recent Negro Freedom Rally at Madison Square Garden to the White House, will report at Sunday's meeting. Mr. Collins will report as an on-the-spot investigator of the Detroit anti-Negro outbreaks.

Mr. Collins, who is also business agent of Local 6, Hotel and Club Employes Union, AFL, said it is not unusual for anti-fascist and other progressive organizations to receive threats of violence. He and Mr. Ford agreed, however, that a threat of a repetition of the Detroit outbreaks, at this time, was not to be accepted lightly.

Other speakers at Sunday's rally will be Ferdinand C. Smith, ex-Rev. Benjamin Richardson, as-tacle, "For This Maritime Union and chairman of the Negro Labor Victory Committee; Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack; Harry Braverman, Los Angeles businessman who defended Negro

Cincinnati, Ohio

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

The Daily Worker

New York, N. Y.

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The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Added Detroit Outrage

TO THE fifth column savagery against the Negro people in Detroit has been added a further serious injustice. It is an outrage which cannot be permitted to continue in any American community.

We refer to the un-American acts of the Detroit police and the local judiciary. Since it is the Negroes who have been the victims of this carnival of bloodletting, it would be thought that the police and courts would proceed with speed to prosecute the fifth column figures who have incited this Ku Klux Klan race hatred. But such is not the case. To the contrary, it is the victims of the outrage, the Negroes, who have been hunted down, arrested in droves and given jail sentences.

JUN 24 1943

The conduct of the police during the rioting is now matched by the un-American actions of the local courts. Fully 90 per cent of those killed in Detroit's streets were Negroes. And it appears that of these, 90 per cent were killed by the police. Of those arrested, the police department now publicly admits, 85 per cent are Negroes and practically all of those sentenced to 90 days consist of these oppressed people.

The judges and so-called peace officers are committed, it is evident, to the corrupt, fascistic view that the Negroes are always wrong.

The courts and the very apparatus which should be used to protect the victims of race hatred are employed in furthering the attack upon them.

The brutal manner in which the Detroit officials have acted cannot fail to enrage the Negro people throughout the country, and rightly so. All America has to make it its business to see that such rank injustice is ended at once. A swelling protest from every village and city is required to put a stop to this persecution, and to denounce those in public office who abet the lynchers and fifth columnists.

What is fully evident in Detroit is that this rioting was engineered as a diversion, a new front, by Hitler's agents.

The responsibility for the outrage lies squarely at the door of the fifth column.

There have been serious contributing causes, of which the fifth column took advantage—among them the congested housing brought about by the greed of certain big corporations, the continuance of Jim Crow and other ills. But it is the enemy of our country which incited this Ku Klux Klan bitterness and bloodshed. It is that enemy which America is required to crush without delay.

JUN 24 1943

The President, as Commander-in-Chief, has a grave duty to issue a proclamation, making it a crime to voice or support race prejudices. All leaflets or other publications expressing such fifth column poison should be confiscated by this proclamation. All who participate or who have participated in such Hitler-echoed incitations should be subject to immediate arrest.

The talk by the FBI that there is "nothing to investigate" is of the same pattern with the policy which has permitted this evil to grow.

It is of the same cloth with the continued delay in bringing to trial 33 of the most culpable native agents of Hitlerism. These men and women, far from being in jail, are actually permitted to print their "X-Rays" and their publications edited by such men as Gerald L. K. Smith.

America has an obligation to search out all fifth column nests and to crush them underfoot. It has a solemn duty to give equal protection of the law to all citizens, and to begin with the victimized Negro people in Detroit. There can be no further temporizing with the germ-bearers of Hitlerism.

JUN 24 1943

Why Is So Little Done?

The race riots in Detroit are described by *The New York Times* as having been long predicted, and as being the expression of a tension which is to be found elsewhere. But that very fact makes the outbreaks in Detroit Los Angeles, Beaumont, Mobile, especially disheartening. In all these cities the likelihood of a flare-up must have been obvious. Granted that the war has brought about congestion and irritability, or that war conditions have heightened a drift toward friction, it is still hard to understand why more has not been done to keep such clashes down, why wherever they have happened the authorities seem to have been caught napping, why so little has been achieved to mobilize, and keep mobilized, the forces calculated to prevent such outbreaks of savagery, or to soften their thrust.

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So far as Detroit is concerned, the most casual visitor during the last year or two could not help realizing that the city was sitting on a volcano that might at any moment go into action. Some Negroes there seem to have chips on their shoulders. The industries have drawn many white workers from the South. Fascist influences have been making themselves felt. More or less minor incidents have pointed toward greater violence to be. A community so rich, so well-endowed, so proud of its progress, might have been expected to do some social planning in the light of such a prospect. But, instead, it let things slide, and the result was the hideous explosion which is now a matter of history.

In Los Angeles, the "zoot suit" riots were directed at Mexicans, although some Negroes caught the edge of the storm. One gathers from so competent an observer as Carey McWilliams, writing in *The New Republic*, that in this situation the authorities were directly at fault, if not actually benevolent onlookers, and that anti-Mexican prejudice had been exploited by the press of the city. For a long time, the Hearst papers have been up to their special game of inciting bad feeling toward Mexicans, young and old. A "crime wave," with which "zoot suit" has been identified, has been played up, so that the community was a powder dump ready for the spark that came.

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It is a sad commentary on our way of life that this sort of thing should be so widely regarded with consistent defeatism. One would imagine that the most strenuous efforts would be made to prepare against eruptions of jungle ferocity. Yet survey the scene, and you find little evidence of precautionary measures. Little groups of well-intentioned people are at work on this problem of race relations, but they do not seem to have made much of an impression on their communities. It is bitterly strange that in a democracy like ours, fighting for fair play to all peoples, there is, relatively speaking, so little precautionary and constructive work to serve this great objective.

Six Persons Die In Detroit Riot, Troops Called

Governor Calls Our Forces After Crowds Continue Fist Fights

DETROIT—(AP)—Michigan state police and state troops were ordered to Detroit Monday to restore order after six persons were killed and some 200 injured in widespread race riots.

JUN 21 1943

Capt. Donald S. Leonard, of Michigan state police, announced shortly before 11 a.m. (E. W. T.) that Gov. Harry Kelly, of Michigan, had ordered mobilization of the state forces.

At that time outbreaks of violence which had spread from an altercation at the Belle Isle bridge late Sunday night were continuing despite the mobilization of the entire 3,500 members of the police force of the nation's fourth city.

Four Negroes had lost their lives, one white civilian was dead and a police sergeant had died of wounds received in a gun fight with a Negro store-looting gang.

One of those slain bore a draft card issued to Carl Lincoln, 19. Patrolmen said they fired after he threw a brick. The officers said they were called to Hancock and Beaubien Streets by two Negro patrolmen who reported Lincoln was molesting women and throwing bricks into the street. One of the police bullets struck him in the chest.

The others killed were identified through cards as William Hardges, 27, and Robert Davis, 28.

Police Sgt. Floyd C. Noot, of the Central Station, 38, father of three children, died in a hospital after he and Patrolman Ernest J. Hartwick, Jr., were wounded.

Windows of stores in the Negro district were smashed, there was considerable looting and at least 20 taxicabs were stoned and damaged, police reported.

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The mayor ordered every saloon and bar in the city closed.

Gov. Harry F. Kelly notified his office at Lansing that he would return to Michigan at once from the governor's conference at Columbus, Ohio, to assist in dealing with the problem.

At the same time he was in telephonic conference with Detroit officials concerning the possible mobilization of the state troops.

Disturbances which occurred over an area roughly three miles square heavily populated by Negroes and lying east and northeast of the downtown area, spread Monday morning to Woodward Avenue, "main stem" of Detroit which runs from the Detroit River north.

At Woodward and Adelaide Street, a crowd of 300 to 400 whites and reported milling about, stoning every passing automobile that carried Negroes. Police reported it consisted mostly of young men dressed in overalls and working clothes. A barrage of rocks forced one car to strike a safety zone; the car then was overturned.

This group finally was dispersed when police riot cars arrived with 20 officers carrying machine guns and tear gas pistols.

* * *

COL. KRECH SAID HE WOULD not call on the River Rouge military police unless necessity requested. All men at the post were held in readiness.

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Inspector Robert Turner, harbormaster at Belle Island, said the riot-

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DETECTIVE INSPECTOR Fra

outfitters in the Negro district, stoning cars and smashing windows.

The receiving hospital was jammed with injured persons, mostly suffering from head bruises and knife wounds.

Mayor Jeffries in a public statement said: "The whole trouble apparently began as an isolated fist fight. There is absolutely no evidence at the present time of any organized effort to create trouble.

"The complete Police Department has been organized and law and order will be maintained.

"I appeal to all the citizens of Detroit to assist in maintaining our orderly routine. The nation needs our maximum resources — every minute counts. These fights accomplish nothing except to upset our war effort. Remember your country needs you now."

The Double V Committee, a Negro organization, issued a public appeal at 4:30 a.m., addressed to the "Negroes of Detroit" and stating:

"Despite incidents which occur which are exceedingly unjust, unfair, and discriminatory against our group, we must not resort to violence or give way to race hatred."

U.S. TROOPS SENT INTO FORD UNIT

'Certain Disturbances' In Rouge Plant Are Cause Of Action

MICHIGAN COURTS SENTENCE RIOTERS

Hunt For 'Real Inciters' Promise Of Michigan, Detroit Officials

DETROIT, June 23—(AP)—Federal troops were brought into the aircraft engine division of the Ford Motor Company's Rouge plant Wednesday, a company spokesman said, because of "certain disturbances which had occurred in the plant" and also to guard against the possibility of further disorders.

The troops were stationed in the plant where Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines are being assembled. Gen. William E. Guthner, commanding Army troops brought here Monday night to halt bitter race rioting in which 29 were killed, said that only a platoon of troops were sent to the Rouge plant and "only for security."

There had been no outbreaks of violence, Gen. Guthner said, adding that the men were called as a result of a walkout of foremen, which it was feared might spread into a flare-up and bring a renewal of the rioting.

Meantime, prosecution of 500 misdemeanor and felony cases proceeded as Gov. Harry F. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries announced they planned to hunt out the "real inciters and assaulters" of Monday's bitter race rioting which took a toll of 29 dead and more than 700 injured.

Ninety-day sentences were meted out by Judge John P. Scallen to the first of the defendants—both Negro and white—in Recorder's Court, bringing from Judge Scallen the comment that "this court makes no distinction of color."

"No Criterion" Seen

Gov. Kelly pointed out, however, that "the scores of cases being taken to court today are no criterion," adding that those were persons who played only minor parts in the disturbances.

"The real inciters and assaulters are the ones we are after," Kelly declared in a joint statement with Mayor Jeffries, "and when they are found their punishment will be fully commensurate with their crimes."

Meanwhile peace prevailed under 3,800 U. S. Army troops and only relatively minor disturbances had been reported since the soldiers moved in Monday midnight. Work in war-busy factories again approached normal.

Taverns and bars remained closed and a ban on sale of liquor had not been lifted, but restrictions on public assembly was eased sufficiently to permit an American League baseball double-header to be played by the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians. Attendance of approximately 3,000 was normal for midweek. A force of some 400 troops was scattered through the stands.

Racing Resumed

Horse racing, cancelled Tuesday, was resumed at the State Fairgrounds racetrack as soldiers patrolled the grounds.

A 10 P. M. general curfew continued in effect Wednesday night.

Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, of the Sixth Service Command, in charge of the Army troops stationed at strategic points throughout the trouble area, said that the soldiers would remain on duty at least until the end of the week.

Federal prosecution of some offenders in the rioting was indicated in Gov. Kelly's announcement that John S. Bugas, Detroit chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewing prisoners and aiding in sorting out those against whom the most serious charges would be brought. Of the more than 1,300 persons arrested since the first outbreak of violence Sunday night, 929 remained in custody when court sessions opened Wednesday, said Paul H. Wencel, chief of city detectives. Of those, 22 were women and approximately 85 per cent Negroes.

War plant absenteeism Wednesday had been reduced to about nine per cent in plants of the Detroit metropolitan area, the War Production Board's regional office announced. While that figure was about double the normal rate for the last three months, it was only half of Tuesday's estimated 20 per cent absenteeism, which C. M. Bolds, regional representative of the WPB Labor Production Division, said caused a 40 per cent loss in production.

DETROIT WATCHFUL IN 'MOP UP' OF RIOTS

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Quiet Continues as the Courts Prepare for Speedy Clearing of Huge Arrest Dockets

$500,000 DAMAGE CLAIMS

Hostile Murmurings Still Rise, but Troops Aid the Police in Barring Any Outbreaks

By TURNER CATLEDGE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 27—Counting every day without a new incident as so much gained in cooling off the race feeling which exploded into rioting a week ago tonight, Michigan and Detroit officials were preparing tonight for a final "mop up" of the disturbances which cost thirty-one lives and brought injury to several hundred.

Jury trials at the proposed rate of a dozen a day were to start tomorrow for more than 100 defendants in riot cases who asked that process. There are 283 felony cases, but most of the defendants are expected to waive jury action, as did most of those sentenced last week. More than 1,000 arrests were made in all and there are 552 misdemeanor cases still pending.

Officials must yet make a determination of how to meet the demands of several hundred white merchants whose stores in the Paradise Valley Negro section were pillaged last Sunday night and Monday. Damage claims of more than $500,000 have been made on the ground of inadequate police protection.

Admission by Police

The police admitted that they were unable to cope with the situation when, they said, the Negroes, retaliating for atrocities by whites in other sections, turned to looting the white-owned stores in their own neighborhoods.

About 2,500 Federal troops from the Sixth Service Command were still bivouacked in the city today, keeping a constant patrol of the danger centers. A like number of State troops were also standing by.

The curfew was still in force, people being required to be off the streets throughout the city by midnight and bars being required to close at 10 P. M.

Belle Isle Park, the approach to which was the scene of the first outreak last Sunday night, was open today, but 200 soldiers stood guard to see that no new outbreaks occurred. Instead of trouble, the whites and Negroes seemed to get along better today than for months before. White and Negro boys went swimming together, played baseball togethe and seemed eager to put on a demonstration of their willingness and ability to associate peacefully.

Nothing fundamental has been settled as yet and officials are still somewhat worried. Tempers are still frayed. In white groups waiting for street cars and buses—crowds are not allowed to congregate elsewhere—one can hear hostile remarks. In the Negro sections there is hostile talk also.

Riot Area Still Littered

This correspondent took a walk of nearly a mile up Hastings Street, in Paradise Valley, yesterday. The police had advised him not to do it, saying that they would not be responsible for anything that might occur.

Although much of the debris had been cleared away, broken glass, bits of shattered merchandise and other residue of the rioting littered the sidewalks and alleys.

In the course of the walk we counted 112 stores that had been attacked. For the most part they had been boarded up, but inside was vivid evidence of the destructiveness of the mobs.

Showcases, tables and chairs had been smashed in a number of delicatessens and the ice cases and shelves in the stores. Pawnshops seem to have been a particular target. Every pawnshop in the section of the street that we toured had been wrecked.

Police said that hardly a store run by a Negro had been touched in the three-mile area of Paradise Valley overrun by the mobs. Yesterday some of these stores had "colored" written in soap or crayon on the windows or doors, but the police were unable to say whether the markings were made before, during or after the rioting.

Interviews in This Area

Some of the Negroes—the street was milling with them—were gracious and willing to talk; others were sullen. Every time we stopped to talk to any of them, others, as if they expected trouble, would gather around. When we asked one, lolling in a "zoot" suit in front of a restaurant, if he expected trouble to start again, he answered out of the corner of his mouth:

"What the hell do you expect?"

We asked the same question of another, sitting on a box in front of a pressing shop and fanning himself.

"I sure hope not—I sure hope the little bastards don't start that business again. Mister, what they need more than anything else is to be taken home and whipped."

"Do you mean the Negroes or the whites?" we asked.

"Both, mister. Both."

White aggressiveness was confined largely to attacks on Negroes found in white sections and attacks on the automobiles of Negroes driving in these sections. Mobs of the two races never got together. If they had—police shudder to think of what might have happened.

Scores Dies' Neglect Of Detroit's Fascists

DETROIT, June 27.—Describing Martin Dies' proposed investigation of the Detroit riots as "an insult to the people of this city because they know that Dies has consistently ignored, shielded or abetted the real fifth columnists responsible for the insurrection," George Marshall, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, urged the President to "save the nation from the effort by Roosevelt to use the war taking place to cover up the conspiracy which engineered the insurrection, and urged the prosecution of anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, anti-labor and anti-democratic forces behind the seditious Ku Klux Klan and the fifth columnist, Gerald L. K. Smith.

The statement indicated that Dies had shielded such indicted

Of his Nazi activities were called Dies' attention by the Civil Federation five years ago. given as an example of Dies' herous methods.

Marshall said further that the basis of his observation of insurrection in Detroit, and of ar smaller scale situations in war production centers during the past month, that the Axis of these acts of violence

and the against racial minorities and the war production program was apparent. "Therefore the first order of the day must be Federal exposure and the stamping out of all fifth column organizations, such as the Klan, and of their publications, such as The Cross and the Flag, and the prompt exposure and rooting out of the pro-Axis conspirators, who sabotage the war program

by stirring up racial conflicts."

61-1943
Nation
New York, N. Y.

Defeat at Detroit

THE Axis is losing battles in Europe and the Pacific, but it can console itself with victories recently won in the United States. In Mobile, Los Angeles, Beaumont, and Detroit Americans infected with the spirit of fascism have attacked our fighting forces in the rear, damaging production and, what is far worse, shattering democratic morale. A succession of Detroits could conceivably mean the loss of the war; it would certainly mean the loss of the peace.

JUL 3 1943

It is time for us to clear our minds and hearts of the contradictions that are rotting our moral position and undermining our purpose. We cannot fight fascism abroad while turning a blind eye to fascism at home. We cannot inscribe on our banners: For democracy and a caste system. We cannot liberate oppressed peoples while maintaining the right to oppress our own minorities. As Horace R. Cayton writes in an article on page 10, "There must be achieved in America and in the world a moral order which will include the American Negro and all other oppressed peoples. . . . In terms of the safety and welfare of our country and of our way of life, the struggle for the rights of the American Negro is as important as the struggle for military victory over the enemy."

Most intelligent and socially responsible Americans would give at least lip-service to this sentiment. They would not attempt to defend denial of opportunity, social inequality, exclusion from the polls, or segregation. They know such things are incompatible with democratic ideals, but they shy from the implications of their own moral standards, and like James Boyd, in his article in last week's *Nation,* urge the Negroes not to raise awkward issues, to trust to gradual reform, to take a historical perspective. The alternative, Mr. Boyd suggested, was explosion, and perhaps he would point to the Detroit riots as the kind of incident which an aggressive Negro policy made inevitable.

JUL 3 1943

Mr. Cayton sharply disagrees with Mr. Boyd's arguments, but that does not mean that he or any other responsible Negro leader advocates a policy of violence. He points out that since America is at present deeply concerned with living up to democratic principles, it is the logical moment for the Negro to seek to improve his position. Nor can his claims to justice be abated in order to check hostility, for every improvement in his status provokes reaction from the bigots. Even Mr. Boyd's program of concentration on the economic front is no guaranty against explosions. Indeed, the root of the trouble in Detroit seems to have been largely economic. For there the Negro is working side by side with the white man on equal terms, to the fury of those whose first object in life is "to keep the nigger in his place."

JUL 3 1943

Detroit is a tense, overworked, overcrowded city. It has experienced a large influx of workers, both white and colored, since the war began. They are earning high wages but finding it difficult to enjoy them, and they are constantly aware of the uncertainty of the future when the war orders cease to pour in. This atmosphere of insecurity has proved favorable to the professional promotion of hatred, and Detroit has become an important center of the Klan as well as the headquarters of Gerald L. K. Smith's anti-Semitic, anti-foreign America First Party and a dozen lesser breeders of social and racial strife. Of course, the outburst of mob violence last week was "spontaneous" in the sense that the time, place, and manner of the outbreak was not controlled by an organized group. But the spirit that inflamed the rioters and led to indiscriminate attacks of Negroes was the result of deliberate propaganda, and if its creators were not directly inspired by the Axis they were doing its work.

JUL 3 1943

The authorities in Michigan are reported to be launching a sociological study of the causes of the riots. That can do no harm and may do some good in the long run. But if other outbreaks in the near future are to be prevented, the police and the FBI should seek the focal points of infection. The majesty of the law cannot kill prejudice, but it can do much more than has been done in Detroit.

Another urgent necessity is an attempt to instil into the police a realization that it is their duty to protect Negroes as well as whites. Most of the victims of the Detroit riots were Negroes, and so were most of those arrested. When the white mobs ran amok, pulling Negroes from automobiles and street cars, the police seem to have done little to intervene. But when the Negroes began to retaliate on white property, the police were quick to use both night sticks and guns. One picture, published in the New York *Times,* showed a Negro under arrest being hit in the face by a white hoodlum. The two policemen holding his arms appear to be making no move to intervene. It is a striking symbol of uneven-handed justice.

The tendency of the police to take sides—a similar attitude was reported from Los Angeles during the "zoot-suit riots"—naturally encourages the white bullies, while it drives the Negroes to a despairing belief that they must provide their own protection with whatever means are available. Equality before the law is one of the fundamental rights of American citizens which has all too often been honored in the breach, particularly in the case of clashes between Negroes and whites. The Negro cannot afford to remain patient about this denial of justice or the refusal of any of the fundamental rights of a citizen. To remain passive is to accept the status of a second-class American—a phrase which white and colored alike ought to reject as a blasphemous contradiction in terms. Until Americans do so we have no right to say complacently: "We are not as these *Herrenvolk* . . ."

JUL 3 1943

Walterboro, S. C. Press & Standard
July 8, 1943

EDITOR TAKEN TO TASK BY DETROITER

THE following is a communication received from Joseph Lipson, Detroit, Mich., who is at Oteen, N. C. In it he takes the editor of The Press and Standard to task for a recent editorial in reference to the riots staged some weeks ago at Detroit in which more than thirty persons were killed by frenzied mobs of white and colored.

The letter follows:

Oteen, N. C., July 1, 1943.

Editor The Press and Standard:

"In your recent editorial concerning the race riots in Detroit, you made the statement: 'Look at the way they treated the negroes in Detroit— things could never happen in the South.' As for as I can recall, all lynchings of negroes in the past 20 years have not taken place in Detroit, but rather in the Southern States.

"I am enclosing a clipping from The Detroit News, which I thought you might be interested in.

"Before criticizing the north, I think the south can come in for a small share of criticizing too. In a recent meeting held in Detroit to determine the cause of the riot, it was agreed that the migration of Southerners to Detroit played a part in the outbreak. They arrive in Detroit harboring the same prejudice that you admit exists, and it is not long before their attitude causes such riots as occurred in Detroit.

"No one can condone race riots of any kind, whatever the cause or wherever they occur, they are a disgrace to our country. However, I feel your criticism of Detroit was more than I could bear."

In the current issue of Life Magazine appear many pictures of the Detroit riot under the head "Race War in Detroit." In the comments made by Life appears the following:

"After several soldiers in full battle dress put down the riot, a fact-finding committee appointed by Governor Kelly of Michigan, went to work to determine its causes. But most Detroiters already knew the causes. Said the Detroit Free Press: 'Detroit has been building steadily for three years toward a race riot.' Named by the Free Press and other observers as contributing largely to last week's riot were: (1) Detroit's abominable housing situation, which condemns thousands of white and negro war workers to living in slums, tents, and trailers; (2) the tremendous migration of white and negro war workers from the South since 1940; (3) 'Race' strikes

Of the known 31 dead in the riot, 15 were negroes shot by city police." "Whites" not Southerners, were barred from the negro section. Then they set upon negroes everywhere they were found and beat them up setting fire to cars, etc., a nauseating exhibition of wrath-aroused citizens.

Thus as in all mob riots reasons was dethroned and acts committed which are outrageous. This, it seems, was done by both races.

We deplore the outbreak. We deplore the seeming attitude of Northerners, like Mr. Lipson, who do not understand the negro, and who through mistaken efforts to help him, do things which harm rather than aid in bringing about a proper solution of the "race problem." We note that in Northern cities there are negro sections in which the colored citizens are segregated. This is true in Detroit and in New York and other northern cities. The true friends of negro are the white people down South. The negroes know this, save for those who perhaps move up north and are indoctrinated with ideas against their natural and proper growth upward.

There are racial differences which are strong, not only as between the negro and the white citizens, but it applies to other races as well. We shall have to recognize these differences and permit conditions to shape themselves accordingly. We cannot "rush" a race into spheres in which he has not had time to grow, and to absorb properly. The negro down South, his natural habitat, is doing well. He has made wonderful progress. He is developing, and he is earning places for himself in the natural way. He can find these opportunities down South, and let alone, he will develop and assume duties and obligations to which nature and nature's God entitle him. We are pleased to see this, and we do not think we are influenced by prejudices. In this problem, a real one, we have no prejudices. We are studying the issues and hope to arrive at correct conclusions.

ASK 'GIVE AND TAKE' FOR DETROIT PEACE

Chairman and Others of the City Interracial Committee Push Anti-Riots Plan

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

PUT HOPE IN MODERATES

Their Attitudes, It Is Held, Can Restrain Rival Pressures Bringing Social Conflict

By TURNER CATLEDGE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 29—The only long-range solution for Detroit's race problem, as seen by officials and social workers who have watched it develop to the explosive stage, is a middle-the-road course in which there will be enough give-and-take on both sides to draw off the worst of the tension.

This is known to be the view of William J. Norton, chairman and some others of the twelve-member inter-[illegible] committee set up by Mayor [illegible] Jeffries Jr. to seek the answer to the trouble-some question that has arisen in this community just as it finds itself the largest producer of war materials in the world.

Failure to adopt and willingly to follow such a procedure will mean, in the opinion of these social experts, that Detroit must resign itself either to frequent recurrences of such riots which cost thirty-three lives a week ago Sunday and Monday or to frequent patrolling of its streets by armed guards.

Withdrawal of Troops Begun

A slow withdrawal of the more than 4,000 Federal and State troops bivouacked here for the last eight days was begun today, but city officials, acting on the advice of the inter-racial study committee, have asked that at least several hundred remain through the Fourth of July week-end.

Detroit police are in constant dread of racial outbreaks in large holiday crowds.

At the basis of the trouble, according to persons who have been close observers of the racial situation here for fifteen or twenty years, are the pressure among the Negroes for equal economic and social rights with the whites and the resistance to that objective. Both pressures, the social workers say, have been growing in intensity — and, more significantly, spreading to what might be termed the more "reasonable" elements of both races. The clash of purposes is not confined by any means to the excitable fringes.

It is to these "reasonable" groups that advocates of a middle way direct their main appeal.

There are hoodlum elements on each side that can be handled only through police methods. But even these cannot be dealt with successfully, in the opinion of officials, so long as the basic racial situation is what it is in the city. For under present circumstances the rowdies on each side feel that they have the tacit backing or at least the sympathy of more substantial people.

Analysis Is Offered

The situation was analyzed for this correspondent today by a person who has been dealing intimately with Detroit's race problem for nearly a quarter of a century.

He declared that, in the conflict of pressures, the Negroes were "getting impatient under the exhortations of their own leaders and the promises of politicians," and the whites were becoming more prejudicial, fanned on in many cases by the motive of private property.

"The Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion—all of the organizations and movements, Negro or white—are only incidental," he went on. "What the Negroes want is not 'comparable' privileges and I don't think that, in their present frame of mind, they will be satisfied with less. The white, frankly, are not ready to grant the rights to the extent the Negroes demand, and being so much in the majority, I fail to see how government can operate to make them yield. Under a system of majority rule the Negroes' appeal to government cannot help but be futile unless the whites wield.

"There's only one way. A giving and taking on the part of both—a middle-of-the-road course by the substantial elements of both sides."

Police Head Accuses Army

DETROIT, June 29 (U.P.)—Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon blamed Army authorities today for delay in bringing sufficient Federal troops into the city to halt last week's rioting.

In a 3,000-word report he said that the Army had informed him incorrectly on steps to be taken to obtain Federal military aid in an emergency.

"I was never advised at any time," he declared, "that a Presidential proclamation was necessary."

He added that the proclamation by President Roosevelt was not issued until nearly twelve hours after the police requested Federal aid.

Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, commanding Federal troops in the city, said he had "no comment at this time" on the Commissioner's charges.

Grand Jury Probe Asked

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT, June 29. — The people of this city are not accepting the whitewash report on the anti-Negro riots [illegible] Governor Kelly's "fact-[illegible]ing" committee.

The Governor's committee declared it had found no evidence that the riots were inspired by fifth column forces. It recommended against a Grand Jury investigation and praised the Detroit police, ignoring the fact that most Negro victims of the riot were killed by police bullets.

Rev. Charles Hill, chairman of the Detroit Citizens Committee and pastor of the Hartford Baptist Church, stated today that hundreds of affidavits would be collected to show the need for a thorough Grand Jury investigation.

An office for assembling this data has been established at the YMCA, 635 E. Elizabeth St., by the Citizens Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Citizens Committee is composed of church, Negro, labor and civic representatives.

"There will be an attorney at this office," said Rev. Hill. "Everyone with information as to the organized nature of this outbreak should come to the office and make out an affidavit. We also want affidavits giving evidence on the police attitude toward the Negro people."

URGE TROOPS STAY

Hill urged that the troops remain in the city at least until after July 4.

Detroit's Mayor Jeffries has appointed a committee of 12 civic leaders — six of them Negroes — to explore the cause of the riot and recommend ways of preventing a recurrence.

Rev. Hill was named to the committee. He said today that the committee could serve a real purpose if it agreed in advance to attack the problem vigiorously and make its report public.

"I am going to insist on this when the committee has its first meeting," he added. "We don't want anymore whitewash committees."

Statements on the riots, which aided Hitler by curtailing production for several days, came yesterday from two important publications—the **Detroit Labor News**, official organ of AFL unions in Detroit and Wayne County, and the **Wayne County Democrat**, influential pro-Roosevelt weekly.

AFL REACTION

The **Detroit Labor News** declared editorially that the "mills of Axis propaganda have been fed the best legitimate fodder they have had since the United States entered the war." The editorial pointed out the failings of Mayor Jeffries and the police department, and concluded:

"There is still a war to be won. Labor does not want any more interruptions. It regards the enemy at home with the same contempt it does the enemy abroad. And it will be just as relentless in destroying him—be he politician, fifth columnist or weasel worded fact dodger."

The **Wayne County Democrat** published a leading article by editor Ferd Fisher stating: "What we need is a grand jury for the high-ups. Who is to blame?"

Indications of the organized nature of the violence are in the following paragraphs of Fisher's article:

"From our sixth-story window in the Lawyers' Building at 2 P. M Monday we watched the scene below with growing indignation.

"Open cars, loaded with assassins at heart, armed with ball bats, clubs and lead pipes, leaped out to join the mob while the driver sat in the car. Not a policeman in sight."

The **Wayne County Democrat** supported fully the 8-point program advanced by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers. The program is headed by a demand for a special grand jury "with a competent Negro attorney appointed as an assistant prosecutor."

Race Riots Injure U. S. With Allies, Willkie Declares

Atlanta, Ga., Journal
July 2, 1943

NEW YORK, July 2.—(AP)—Wendell Willkie declared Thursday night that some of the peoples allied with the United States in the war look upon race riots in this country as "a sign of racial arrogance and intolerance on our part."

Speaking on the NBC "Words at War" program, the 1940 Republican presidential candidate declared:

" . . . Our ability to help make this a world in which there can be peace and order depends as much on how we live up to our proclaimed ideals, as on the strength of our arms. It depends also upon our ability to understand the other peoples of the world. . . . "

Describing Russia as an effective society that has survival value, Willkie said:

" . . . It is easy to make Americans and Russians distrust each other. But it takes wisdom and patience to find the method by which these two great peoples can work together. And to work together does not require that either nation adopt the other's internal policies or approve the other's history.

"But this much is sure. America will be sowing the seeds of greater and more devastating wars if we allow our prejudices instead of our wisdom to guide our relations with Russia."

61-1943

OPINION

PM

New York, N. Y.

The Battle of Detroit

JUN 23 1943

I have been looking through the pictures of the battle of Detroit (*see Pages* 10-19.) They are not pretty, and they are nothing for Americans to be proud of.

I don't mean just the blood and the pain that you see on the faces of the men. Nor do I mean just the more than a score dead and the hundreds of wounded in the hospitals. Pain and suffering and the fact of death itself are less important than the cause for which they are endured.

JUN 23 1943

But this cause is so meaningless, so deformed.

The key to the tragedy of Detroit is the fear and hatred that you can read on the faces of the men and women in the pictures. It is the mask of Caliban enveloping a mob that is wreaking its cruelty upon the helpless and the innocent. This hatred—not of the common enemy, but of our own American brothers—is a twisted emotion that shows up all the ugliness of the American soul.

What dolts we are, to dehumanize ourselves. And in what cause? In Hitler's, as far as immediate consequences go. The men who set these riots off, whether they be Bundists or Ku Klux Klanners, followers of Paul Joseph Goebbels or Gerald L. K. Smith, are doing Hitler's work here. That much is simple.

Hitler would be foolish if he did not use this weapon, especially at a time when he is desperate. It is as if he were to send saboteurs among us—only instead of destroying bridges they destroy our sense of decency, and instead of disrupting communications they disrupt our living and working together.

JUN 23 1943

But I say these things mainly to point to the very minimum of action we must take—Federal and local action against the known groups who spread violence in our war centers. I do not say them to absolve the American people of blame.

It is too easy to find alibis that wash the guilt away from those who took part in the riots, and from the whole American Nation. We cry: "Nazi instigators." We cry: "Kluxers." We create something fancy and objective, like "race tensions" and "race prejudice" that we discuss in a detached way.

JUN 23 1943

The Kluxers and the Bundists undoubtedly lit the match in every instance. But in every instance our America furnished the inflammable material.

What have we done to ease the daily crucifixion of the Negro in our midst, which leaves in him a smoldering bitterness? What have we done to give him fair employment in our war industries and elsewhere? What have we done to break down Jim Crowism in the armed forces? What have we done, by word and deed, to make him see that he has a share in this war and in the world?

And what have we done, in turn, to cleanse the hatred and ignorance from the whites among us? What have we done to make them see that we are in a war against Fascism, and that the essence of Fascism is to treat some men as sub-men because of color and creed? What have we done to teach an understanding of the creative contribution of our minority groups toward the total American culture? What have the Government and business and the trade unions done to develop going experiments in which white and black alike can work and live side by side?

JUN 23 1943

Our spokesmen talk of re-educating Nazi Germany, of liberating Europe. We have some re-educating to do at home. The liberator must liberate himself.

Look in your own hearts, Americans. These men in the Detroit streets—these men splattered with blood, cowering in fear, their faces bashed in, their homes looted and burned, their spirits broken—these men, whatever their color may be, are bone of your bone. And these other men and women who have done the destruction, their faces bestial and fury-driven—these are also of your own America.

JUN 23 1943

American men and women: this is your task. The suffering is yours, and the guilt is yours. You must learn what the facts are, but the facts will not themselves set you free. You must set yourselves free of hate and discrimination, of blindness and inaction. No one can do that for you—not even the Federal Government. It can help, but you must not lean entirely on that help.

JUN 23 1943

The papers say that the Detroit riots have cut down war production. True. But what a curious way of putting it

Michigan

Negroes are not just machines for turning out planes and ships. Negroes are human beings and Americans. What the riots have cut down is the stature of America.—MAX LERNER

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BLOT ON THE 'SCUTCHEON

Times New York

The Detroit riots have smeared a dark blot on this country's good name at the very moment when it could be of the most assistance to the enemy, and at the very point where it could be most effective. Detroit, with its vast automotive industries, is the key city in our "arsenal of democracy." Now the news goes all over the world, to North Africa, among the dark-skinned and brown-skinned peoples of India and the South Pacific islands, among the yellow-skinned peoples of Burma, Malaya, Indo-China, Thailand, China and Korea, that black-skinned people are killing and being killed by white-skinned people in free America. These riots, and others resembling them in kind if not in magnitude, show that a certain fraction of our own people have reverted to the jungle.

JUN 23 1943

It is of no use to preach to the hoodlums of any race. Many of them, who might have been saved if they had been reared in a wholesome environment, are now beyond redemption. They have to be rendered harmless by the stern exercise of the police power, and this is being done. But habitual hoodlums alone do not produce riots of this magnitude. There was a mass hysteria, involving members of both races, and producing violence in men who, whatever their innate prejudices, usually keep within the law.

This situation in Detroit requires the most thorough, objective and fully publicized study that can be made. We ought to take the lid off and look squarely at this shameful thing. We ought to know to what extent anti-American individuals and organizations precipitated this outbreak. We know already that race hatred has been spread in Detroit and other American cities. Let us find out who paid for this vile propaganda.

Then let us look further. Mob passion does not reach the pitch it did in Detroit without previous friction. What causes such friction? In Detroit people's nerves have been rasped by bad housing, from which the Negro was the chief sufferer, by congestion on the street cars and in every public place, and by other circumstances in a city which has provided places for thousands of newcomers to work, but has not been able to give them comfort or even decency in their leisure hours. But beyond the natural tension thus created there is an unnatural and dangerous tension brought about by a new assertion on the part of the Negro of his equal rights as a citizen and worker and an ardent prejudice on the part of some white people—certainly not all or even a majority—which denies him those rights.

JUN 23 1943

There is a job for the FBI in Detroit. There is also a job for a Congressional committee or some other public body with powers of subpoena and with funds, patience and time to trace every underlying cause of this outbreak. The whole truth will help the well-wishing majority in Detroit and elsewhere to do the quiet, fair-minded, undramatic things that stop race riots before they start.

Detroit Tragedy

Post Washington, D.C.

JUN 23 1943

No American can escape a feeling of shame as well as sorrow over the race riots which cost 25 lives and injured many hundreds in Detroit this week. When men so far forget their own institutions as to override them in brute fury, they call into question their capacity for self-government. Such an outbreak is at its ugliest when it stems from race hostility. For then it derides the first principle upon which a democratic society is based—the principle that all men are created free and equal.

JUN 23 1943

It is, in a sense, doubly tragic that this outbreak should have occurred when we are in the midst of a war for human freedom. The purposes for which we have declared that we are fighting are besmirched by it. The sincerity of our aims is exposed to the skepticism of our enemies, and even of our friends. And to put the matter on the lowest or most practical level of consideration, the effectiveness of our war efforts is dangerously deranged. Detroit is one of the major centers of our war production. It will not easily readjust itself to the normal tempo and pattern of its workday life.

All of this represents a battle triumph for our enemies. It is perhaps no accident that the tragedy occurred in a city which has spawned some of our prinicipal native Fascists. The immediate cause of the uprising, to be sure, lies in the inadequate living facilities of a community which has become desperately overcrowded as a result of the war. But beneath this is the poison

JUN 23 1943

Rumors To Blame

News

Birmingham, Ala.

AUG 6 1943

Rumors, for the part they played in the recent Detroit rioting who lead to demonstrations in a report made by a fact-finding committee. The committee, who seeks thoroughly in line with the general effect of rumors concerning difficult and complicated situations.

One false rumor was definitely blamed for the outbreak, and, according to the committee, played a high role in all the troubles. There was no premeditation or preconceived plans, the report declared, which set forth that underlying tension "was inflamed as a result of several disconnected incidents provoked by a group of Negroes."

That report should serve as a sharp warning. It is a reminder that rumors work for the enemy, even though there may be no such intention. In a period when emotions and tensions are naturally high, rumors often act as the sparks that ignite great fires.

Had all Detroit citizens refrained from spreading rumors, there might have been no riot. In the face of that indication, every American should see more clearly his duty in regard to any and all rumors.

For Each Of Us

June 24, 1943

It seems to *The News* that there are two things for all Americans to keep especially clear in their minds as they contemplate with horror and concern the racial and national tragedy that has occurred in Detroit.

First and foremost, we should never cease to remember that no problems among us can be solved or mitigated by mass violence. Rather it is unmistakably obvious that such madness can only intensify our troubles and dangers, bringing the most fearful of all human calamities—battle between citizens of a common country, with common aims and hopes.

Birmingham, Ala., News

Second, it should be borne constantly in mind that the great majority of our people, white and colored, do realize that violence is no solution and are resolved to do their utmost to discourage and prevent it.

Why, then, do we have such frightful outbreaks? Why must the country undergo such a situation as developed in Detroit?

* * *

In that great American city thousands of workers have been remaining away from their urgent war tasks for fear of a resumption of violence. The mighty American war machine is being slowed down just when it is gaining peak momentum. On either count—that of fear or war efficiency—the situation is intolerable. Why?

There are serious and pressing problems in the racial situation, in the whole question of minority rights. These problems cannot be evaded. They must be faced. We must strive earnestly, courageously, positively, to make progress in dealing with them. But these problems are not to be blamed for barbaric rioting. No one can believe that solutions are to be found in mass madness.

No, the trouble grows out of lack of control and sense, out of surrender to blind passions, out of momentary yielding to savage instincts.

One person might thus yield to his low impulses and precipitate a general outburst of such instincts among thousands of persons. Madness of this kind can spread like panic when someone shouts fire in a crowded building. That is where the danger lies—that one or a few will yield and infect large groups with sudden, uncontrollable savagery.

* * *

The duty, then, of every one of us is plain: to stand guard over his own self-control, to do everything possible to contribute to a disciplined state of the public mind generally.

Let it be repeated that the vast majority, white and colored, is profoundly aware of the tragedy and frustration of violence and is firm in standing out against any such tendencies.

The difficult thing is to assure restraint among the few who are disposed toward irresponsibility and extremism.

There can be no guarantee in that respect. But maintenance of mutual consideration, human justice and firm self-control among the majority affords strong protection against the dangerous few.

A Refugee Looks at Detroit

Dear Editor: New York. N. Y.

I cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of your pictures revealing the common pattern of racial persecutions, here and in Nazi Germany. PM

When I first saw pictures of the Detroit race riots, there came to my mind almost immediately those scenes in Germany, many of which I had witnessed myself. I am sure that all of those who, like us, came to this country to escape racial persecution were deeply shocked by the happenings in Detroit. We had thought all along that "it can't happen here."

Undoubtedly, all Americans are determined to fight Hitlerism to the finish—abroad. Unfortunately, there are altogether too few people who realize that the Detroit riots represent Hitlerism—at home.

I, therefore, believe that these pictures distributed as (OWI?) posters all over the country would be of great help in building up an army of volunteers to fight Hitlerism on the homefront.

Allston, Mass. MARION E. SAMTER

Agitators Disappointed

Charleston, S. C., News-Courier

The race riots following the First World war, in which scores and hundreds of negroes were killed, were in Northern cities, East St. Louis, Washington, Chicago. How many negroes were slaughtered by ruffians in Chicago has never been ascertained. In the South, in the present war, have been outbreaks in Beaumont, Texas, and in Mobile, Alabama, but the butchery in no place has compared with that in the Detroit riot.

Were the South left to itself by outsiders, little danger of racial conflict would arise, but the agitators of the North apparently would like to hear of "Southern outrages" in order that they might "make a case" for poll tax repeal and anti-lynching bills designed to destroy the rights of the states and to substitute the Socialized, the totalitarian state for the republic.

The federal government lends an indulgent ear to the agitators. These people, these uplifters, are probably disappointed that in the South a war between the races has not begun. How can they make a case against the Southern states as long as peace between the races shall prevail? The white people of the South, generally, are causing them acute embarrassment by their considerate treatment of the colored people.

June 28, 1943

The overshadowing "jim crow" practice is the exclusion of negroes from the farms and villages of the North and West, their segregation in the great cities.

This wholesale and widespread jim crowing is never mentioned by a Northern congressman or other politician.

Charleston, S. C., News-Courier
June 28, 1943

"High Ups" Guilty

One can have little sympathy with the white rioters of Detroit, but when the mayor and other authorities are searching for "the guilty ones", of both colors, they will fail in the search unless they arrest the persons answerable for the effort to break down separation of the races in Detroit. It is entirely practicable for two races to live together in a city without conflict and clashing, and The News and Courier's hope is that Charleston will continue an evidence of that truth for the benefit of Detroit. In Southern cities the proportion of negroes to white people is greater than in Detroit, but they have no mixed schools and other admixtures. In Detroit the white people, by and through their government and politicians, have taught the negroes that separation is wrong, and now a white mob rises to repudiate the teaching with violence.

News Birmingham

Detroit's Rioting

The grave racial outbreak in Detroit is one more evidence of the urgent need for the most disciplined behavior by both the white and colored peoples of all communities where extraordinary conditions intensify old problems and new stresses.

According to the mayor of Detroit, the trouble which developed into serious and fatal disorders began with an isolated fist fight. Such outbreaks are evidence, of course, of underlying tension. But violence can in no way mitigate difficulties, strains, injustices. It can only accentuate and multiply them. The tension is undeniable in some situations. That is why the need for general self-control and forbearance is so obvious and urgent.

Fortunately, this Detroit outbreak probably is only an isolated instance, more or less ascribable to chance and a momentary loss of control. All Americans can be profoundly grateful that in the great majority of cases, our white and colored citizens are resolved both to do their utmost to promote understanding, good feeling and justice and to prevent violence of any sort.

Foolish Rumors

ERIE, PA.,

Gen. Brehon B. Somervell's appeal to women to help kill false rumors can equally well be directed to all civilians, men as well as women. The natural tendency of story-tellers to make their tales sensational may be pardoned when times are normal. But canards in war time can do much to undermine civilian morale. DISPATCH-HERALD

Unfounded reports did their part in providing the background for the Detroit race riot. For weeks before the trouble came to a head the grapevine had circulated all sorts of stories among whites and Negroes which inflamed a latent race prejudice. Incidents which might have been passed off as ordinary breaches of the peace grew to be looked upon as part of some insidious plot.

For sound military reasons the government is forced to be quiet about many of its operations. This silence provokes some to fill in the gaps with information which most of the time is strictly homemade. A very little fact is mixed into the tale to give it credibility.

Gossipy rumor spreaders are not all fifth columnists, but they are doing Hitler's work. Instead of encouraging unity in the home front to back up the armed forces, the tale bearers promote suspicion of the government and widen differences between groups. The public would do well to listen with distrust to the information it gets through unauthorized channels.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

THE DETROIT RIOTS WERE GOOD NEWS TO

the commentators of the Axis, who have had rather poor pickings lately as far as the war itself is concerned. The Japanese were able to tell their vast audience throughout Asia that "Americans are giving vent to their psychopathic race prejudice by hunting down innocent Negroes as they would hunt down wild beasts." The Tokyo radio quoted an editorial in the Nippon *Times* which asserted that "it is a singular fact that supposedly civilized Americans in normal times will deny Negroes the right to live in decent neighborhoods, deny them opportunity to engage in respectable jobs, deny them right or access to the same restaurant, theater, or train accommodations as themselves, and then periodically will run amok to lynch Negroes individually or to slaughter them wholesale—old men and children alike—in race wars like the present one." The French heard from their German-controlled radio that the Detroit affair was "proof of the internal disorganization of a country torn by social injustice, race hatreds, regional disputes, the violence of the irritated proletariat, of a capitalistic police whose gangsterism has often been mentioned in American literature and movies. . . . Today, on the morrow of the bloody incidents of Detroit, the French people, imbued with a sense of social justice, realize the dangers for world civilization inherent in the American aims of world domination." Is there anyone who still believes that race relations in this country are merely a domestic problem of which the solution can be deferred until the war is won?

KELLY ACTS TO EASE DETROIT RIOT CURB

Times

Baseball Double-Header and Racing Allowed—Curfew and Other Restrictions Kept

New York N. Y.

JUN 24 1943

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 23—Detroit had quieted down today and Governor Harry F. Kelly conferred with Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, city and State officials on the possibility of relaxing the restrictions on civilian activities which have been in effect since late Monday, when Governor Kelly imposed his "modified martial law" as the result of race riots in which twenty-nine persons were killed.

The double-header baseball game between Detroit and Cleveland was permitted to be played and the races were resumed at the Fair Grounds. Troops were stationed at each place.

Governor Kelly said that the 10 P. M. curfew would remain in effect tonight and theatres would be required to close at 9:15 P. M. Restrictions on the sale of liquor remained and places of amusement were kept closed and public assemblages were banned. Officials will meet again early Thursday and Governor Kelly stated that if the city continued quiet throughout the night a gradual lifting of restrictions might be possible beginning tomorrow.

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"We have thte siuation in hand now," Governor Kelly said tonight after having been informed by Army officials that no new outbreaks of rioting had been reported during the day.

"Now our job is to see that those who took part in the rioting are punished and to find out what the causes were and who was responsible. Every effort will be made to bring them to the bar of justice so that such things will never again happen in Michigan."

Kelly Names Committee

A committee to investigate causes was named by Governor Kelly this afternoon and will hold its first meeting tomorrow. It consists of Herbert J. Rushton, Michigan Attorney General; Oscar C. Olander, Commissioner of the State police; William E. Dowling, Wayne County Prosecutor, and John H. Witherspoon, Detroit Police Commissioner.

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Despite charges of civic and labor groups that the rioting was inspired by subversive elements, all officials of the Army, police and Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that they had uncovered no evidence to support the claims.

Governor Kelly said that he had conferred with John S. Bugas, in charge of the Detroit office of the F. B. I., which told him that the F. B. I. was conducting an investigation but so far had found only violations of State and local laws. He promised to turn over what evidence he obtained to local officials.

More than 1,200 persons remained in jail today and every available police officer and detective was busy taking statements and aiding in preparing cases to go to court. Mr. Dowling said that every injured person had been interviewed and statements had been obtained from many witnesses.

Felony Trials Promised

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries said that more than two-thirds of those arrested would be tried on felony charges. Most of these cases will be based on a State law making it a felony to appear armed on the streets under circumstances such as those of Monday. He said that clubs, bricks and stones could be interpreted as weapons under the law.

With the courts working overtime, 146 persons were sentenced today to serve [illegible] days in the Detroit House of Correction on charges of disturbing the peace. In addition, sixty-seven others, including men and women of both races, were granted jury trials when arraigned on the same charges. Of those sent ot jail the numbers were about equally divided between whites and Negroes.

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'HITLERISM SPIRIT' FOUND VICTOR HERE

Times

Rabbis Note 'Barbarism Creed' in Detroit Riots—Avoidance of Racial Violence Sought

New York, N. Y.

JUN 24 1943

INVESTIGATION SUGGESTED

Social and Economic Causes of Conflict Said to Be Deep —Evils and Injustices Cited

JUN 24 1943

A plea "to eschew all racial violence and hate and to unite in the defense of our common heritage of good-will, equality and freedom for all," was embodied in a resolution decrying recent race riots which was adopted yesterday by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in the Hotel New Yorker. Dr. James G. Heller of Cincinnati is president of the conference.

Citing "the bloody events which have occurred in the city of Detroit," the resolution made its plea "in the name of every cherished American tradition and every sacred principle of religion." It declared that "in the rioting mobs of Detroit we find evidence of the same creed of barbarism which elsewhere seeks to efface the image of God from the face of the earth."

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"The spirit of Hitlerism," according to the resolution, "has achieved a triumph on American soil and in this tragic outbreak has scored a victory against the forces of democracy."

Responsibility for Riots

The rabbis demanded that "the forces of our government be called upon to ferret out those organized groups or individuals who have been responsible for inciting these race riots." They continued:

"We urge that a competent public authority investigate the deep-lying social and economic cause of this outbreak. We call upon men of good-will, both White and Negro, in every community to proceed forthwith to uncover these evils and injustices which have been gathering for some time and which have led to these tragic consequences."

At a joint meeting with members of the Rabbinical Assembly in the afternoon, leaders of the rabbinate in this city and other large centers discussed the relation of the synagogue to social service and the cooperation between the synagogues and their respective communities.

Community Meetings

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman of Congregation Beth Israel, Hartford, Conn., recommended occasional joint meetings of the trustees of several congregations in a community to discuss administrative and educational matters, so that "out of such conferences there might develop a concerted effort sponsored by the united synagogues of a community to develop a genuine educational project covering the whole community."

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Discussing the relation of the synagogue to social work, Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger of the Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund, Inc., declared that "the rabbi who recognizes that social work is a normal, useful and constructive social instrument and that community organization, may be directed to helping individuals meet the problems of a constantly shifting relationship with one another and with the whole will become vital as a force in his community."

Support of Congregations

In urgin gsupport of the movement "to restore the centrality of the synagogue," Dr. Ira Eisenstein of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in this city declared that the community must again make the maintenance and support of congregations one of its major responsibilities, and officials with rabbinic training must be placed in charge of other communal activities conducted by the community, so that they may be carried on in the spirit of religion and for the creattive survival of the Jewish people."

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Rabbi Armond Cohen of Cleveland, in pointing out the evils of "parochial attitudes" and "social caste," declared that "in the national field the Synagogue Council of America, still in its infancy, gives hope of becoming the instrument for welding together our respective national organizations interested in the centrality of the synagogue in America."

Streets Littered with Debris of Race Riots.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

JUN 23 1943

Detroit, Mich., June 22 (AP).—Under orders to "load your guns and don't take anything from anybody" United States army troops patroled Detroit streets today, restoring calm to this great armament production center after 24 hours of racial conflict that brought death to 28 persons and injuries of varying degree to at least 700 others.

All but three of the dead were Negroes; of the injured, 74 remained in hospitals today, six of them policemen.

An estimated 1,300 persons were under arrest. Police officials said that about 85 per cent of them were Negroes averaging in age around 21. Most of them were held in specially established prisons guarded by Michigan state troops.

Violence Subsides.

With the arrival of the army troops the violence and looting that flared up in different sections of the city from early Monday morning until last midnight subsided. Today there had been no reports of further conflict, but saloons remained closed and public assemblages still were banned.

Thousands of Negro factory workers, said to be fearful of renewed outbreaks, stayed away from work. An office of war information survey indicated Negro factory absenteeism today ranged from 50 to 90 per cent. The effect on war goods production, plant spokesmen said, probably would not be apparent until tomorrow.

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Canceled were today's Cleveland-Detroit baseball game and the day's horse racing program at the Michigan state fair grounds. Theaters were permitted to remain open only until 9:15 p. m. and a curfew ordering all law abiding citizens off the streets from 10 p. m. until 6 a. m. also continued in effect.

Troops to Stay a While.

Gov. Harry F. Kelly, who invoked these restrictions, announced after a conference with army officers that the troops would stay in the Detroit area indefinitely.

JUN 23 1943

In Recorder's court today 31 men and 3 women, all Negroes convicted of disturbing the peace in yesterday's rioting were sentenced to 90 day terms in the Detroit house of correction.

Sent into the area under a proclamation of President Roosevelt that took note of "unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings," the troops in trucks and jeeps from which protruded muzzles of rifles and machine guns patroled the main streets and yesterday's battle sectors.

1,000 Soldiers on Duty.

Yesterday those streets and the outlying sectors were the scenes of savage hand to hand conflict between whites and Negroes.

The troops were enforcing a limited form of military control. There were more than 1,000 of them on duty with as many more held in reserve in nearby army posts. In the speedy jeeps and trucks they were available for quick movement to any affected area in a tri-county zone declared by Gov. Kelly to be in a state of emergency. Their equipment included armored cars and a Red Cross unit.

Gov. Kelly's state of emergency order covered Wayne county [Detroit] and adjoining Oakland and Macomb counties, where many of the metropolitan area's larger armament factories are located.

Débris Cleared Away.

The army forces were under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner of the 6th service command. He explained that martial law had not been proclaimed. The President's proclamation, he said, "gave federal assistance to the state of emergency." This form leaves the

[illegible] Negro driving an automobile from [illegible] Hartsig, whothe radiator of which flew a white [illegible] told of signs onflag. "That flag means [illegible] ag: "This is a col-tral," the driver explained. "I'm [illegible] break in." These not taking any chances."

[illegible] said, were un- The officers said they found a re[illegible]rs which bore no olver inside his shirt and booked [illegible] him on a concealed weapons charge.

Police Lt. Albert [illegible] toured the area, told [illegible] some horses reading: "T[illegible] ored home; [illegible] no break [illegible] homes, Hartsig said, [illegible] touched wh[illegible] placards were wrecked [illegible] dered.

Armed Neutral Motorist.

At another point in the east side Negro section police halted

Bans Eased As Detroit

Settles Down

Courier-Journal

Troops Still Patrol; Inquiry Is Launched

Louisville, Ky.

Detroit, June 24 (AP) — Detroit approached normalcy today, and emergency restrictions including Gov. Harry F. Kelly modified a general curfew and liquor ban imposed Monday as a means of curbing rece[illegible] that brought death to more than thirty persons and injury to nearly 800.

All restrictions were lifted in the outlying metropolitan areas of Macomb and Oakland Counties, while in Wayne County (Detroit) tonight's curfew was set for midnight instead of 10 p.m., liquor sale by the glass was permitted from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and places of amusement were allowed to remain open until 11 p.m. Since Monday all theaters had been forced to close at 9 p.m.

Troops Still On Hand.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., recommended that restrictions be eased after [illegible] Commissioner John H. Witherspoon reported that the city rapidly was getting back to normal.

In fact, Mayor Jeffries described Wednesday night as "even quieter than normal," and advised proprietors of business establishments in the "Paradise Valley" Negro section that they might safely reopen their stores, promising "ample police protection."

A force of 3,800 U. S. troops under command of Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner of the Sixth Service Command continued to patrol city streets and, according to General Guthner, will remain at least until the week end.

Both here and in Washington measures were taken to investigate causes of the bitter twenty-four hours of mob fighting that subsided Monday night on arrival of the troops.

Investigators Meet.

A committee composed of Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton, State Police Commissioner Oscar C. Olander, Wayne County Prosecutor William E. Dowling and Commissioner Witherspoon, named by Governor Kelly to conduct an inquiry, met today.

Dowling said, "There is no evidence at present that the riot was planned or conceived by enemy agents or anyone else," and added that he saw no necessity for calling a special grand jury.

The total of ninety-day sentences imposed on rioters reached 152 by this afternoon in Recorder's Court—126 of them Negroes and twenty-six white. Many of both races were under bonds ranging up to $2,500 pending trial.

Troops Sent To Ford Plant On Strike Duty

Boston Washington, D. C.

JUN 24 1943

By the Associated Press

Detroit, June 23.—Federal troops were brought into the aircraft engine division of the Ford Motor Co.'s Rouge plant today, a company spokesman said, because of "certain disturbances which had occurred in the plant" and also to guard againstthe possibility of further disorders.

JUN 24 1943

Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, commanding Army troops brought here Monday night to halt bitter race rioting in which 29 were killed said that only a platoon of troops was sent to the Rouge plant, and "only for security."

There had been no outbreaks of violence, General Guthner said, adding that the men were called as a result of a walkout of foremen, which it was feared might spread into a flare-up and bring a renewal of the rioting.

JUN 24 1943

1500 Face Riot Charge

Meantime, mass prosecution of 500 misedemanor and felony cases proceeded as Gov. Harry F. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries announced they planned to hunt out the "real inciters and assaulters" of Monday's bitter race rioting which took a toll of 29 dead and more than 700 injured.

Ninety-day sentences were meted out by Judge John P. Scallen to the first of the defendants—both Negro and white—in Recorder's Court, bringing from Judge Scallen the comment that "this court makes no distinction of color."

Governor Kelly pointed out, however, that "the scores of cases being taken to court today are no criterion," adding that those were persons who played only minor parts in the disturbances.

JUN 24 1943

Only Minor Disturbances

Meanwhile, peace prevailed under the direction of 3800 United States Army troops and only relatively minor disturbances had been reported since the soldiers moved in Monday midnight.

Taverns and bars remained closed and a ban on sale of liquor had not been lifted, but restriction on public assembly was eased sufficiently to permit an American League baseball double-header to be played by the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians. A force of some 400 troops was scattered through the stands.

Horsee racing, canceled yesterday, was resumed at the State Fair Grounds racetrack as soldiers patrolled the grounds.

A 10 p. m. general curfew continued in effect tonight.

JUN 24 1943

929 Still in Custody

General Guthner said soldiers would remain on duty at least until the end of the week.

Of the more than 1300 persons arrested since the first outbreak of violence Sunday night, 929 remained in custody when court sessions opened today, said Paul H. Wencel, chief of city detectives. Of those, 22 were women, and approximately 85 per cent Negroes.

War plant absenteeism today had been reduced to about 9 per cent in plants of the Detroit metropolitan area.

DETROIT HEAD SETS INQUIRY IN MOTION

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

JUN 26 1943

Mayor Urges Dies to Keep Committee Out of Rioting Situation and Names Own Board

MASTER PLAN IS DECRIED

Governor's Committee Reports 'No Evidence of Inspiration Coming From Enemy Influence'

By TURNER CATLEDGE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 25—Mayor Edward J. Jeffries Jr. made a public plea today to Representative Martin Dies of Texas and his Committee on un-American Activities to stay away from Detroit. The Mayor said he feared that the entry of the Dies Committee into the picture might set off anew the inter-racial fires which cost the lives of thirty person s earlier in the week, and brought several thousand Federal and State troops here to patroling Detroit streets with guns and bayonets.

"The Dies Committee can offer nothing but more confusion," said Mayor Jeffries. "The FBI has been investigating, along with military and naval intelligence and city and State police. Another investigation by Dies would accomplish nothing at all."

Meanwhile, the fact-finding committee appointed Tuesday reported to Gov. Harry F. Kelly that it had found no evidence of subversive activities or of a master plan in the riots.

"Your committee, utilizing the agencies of the State Police, the Detroit Police Department, and augmented by the cooperation of the FBI under John S. Bugas, the Navy Intelligence, the Army Intelligence, the investigators of the Prosecuting Attorney's office, the investigating staff of the Attorney General of Michigan and from persons arrested in connection with the riot," said the committee, "find no evidence of any plan or plans or any inspiration coming from enemy influence of any other organized influence which brought about the recent rioting."

JUN 26 1943

Mayor Names Inquiry Board

On the basis of the committee's report the Governor decided not to ask for a grand jury investigation of the riot causes, but to rely on the findings of a twelve-member interracial board appointed today by Mayor Jeffries to go into the whole racial question and all its myriad ramifications in Detroit.

The Mayor's committee is headed by William J. Norton, executive vice president and executive secretary of the Children's Fund of Michigan. Peoples concerned with the racial problem complained that the Mayor had been asked to appoint just such a committee many months ago, but let the mattering drift until the recent explosion.

Whether intended as such, the report of Governor Kelly's fact-finding committee was viewed in part as an answer to those who have been trying since Monday to find a simple answer and a plan for the riots. Some have sought to lay the trouble on the Ku Klux Klan and its various offshoots and kindred organizations, most of which operate to some extent in Detroit and Michigan.

Others have charged it to animosities toward Negroes on the part of the thousands of Southern migrant workers who have come into Detroit on war-production jobs. Still others lay the trouble at the door of the Negroes themselves, to newcomers from the South who found a degree of freedom here which they were not used to before. And there are those who think they see a deep subversive plot, feeding upon the rabid followers of Gerald L. K. Smith and others of his ilk.

Officials Stress Hoodlumism

All the elements mentioned above and probably others are present in the general racial situation in Detroit. But how they were divided as to cause and effect when applied to developments leading up to the late riots is a question that defies a simple answer. The authorities are convinced in their own mind that it was not a planned uprising, that it started with a fight between whites and Negroes on Belle Island and then spread on rumor and hoodlumism during the next twenty-four hours to other parts of Detroit.

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The Federal authorities also hold to this theory, and to the denial, so far as evidence is concerned, that there was direct subversive activity.

Witnesses asserted that in the downtown rioting in which a large percentage of juvenile hoodlums participated, the youngsters were egged on in many cases by older men who when fighting started stepped back into the crowd. Some, but not the authorities, maintain this was evidence of planning and leadership.

Officials maintain that if the Ku Klux Klan were involved, it was more in the general attitude than in direction of the fray. They are at a loss to understand the wholesale looting of stores by Negroes in the Paradise Valley area except that it was hatred run rampant.

Antagonisms Deep Rooted

Hatred between the whites and Negroes has grown in this community since the dawn of its industrial era. It has its roots as far back as the "underground railway" days before the war between the States. It has grown high during the last twenty-five years, even to the point of Sunday night's explosion, in crowded conditions in which the Negro was always "out of place." It has been accentuated recently by the influx of both Negroes and whites from the South.

The tinder was lying about. All that was needed was a spark, accidental or purposeful. So far as the evidence to date goes, the explosion may actually have been set off by no more than the accidental clashing of two automobile bumpers and the exchange of profanity between the Negro and white drivers on Belle Isle Bridge.

There are few if any observers in Detroit, official or otherwise, who were surprisedd at what happened.

THE DETROIT INSURRECTION

The Union

By EDWARD E. STRONG

(National Secretary of the National Negro Congress)

Cincinnati, Ohio

Detroit, Michigan — An unprecedented insurrection, organized and led by the Ku Klux Klan, the Coughlinites, the gang of Gerald L. K. Smith, and other fascist groups, against the democratic aspirations of the American people, took place in the City of Detroit beginning around mid-Detroit was Nazi inspired and led night, Sunday, June 20, and lastingby American fascists who have been until early Tuesday morning, June 22.cultivating the ground in this center For forty-eight hours the streets of Detroit were taken over by the or- Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property has been destroyed. Thirty one persons, twenty-eight Negroes. With hardly an exception, Negro and three whites, are dead. all shooting of Negroes was done by Over sixty people were shot—all Ne- Police. Instead of arresting the hood- groes—with few exceptions. Another lums, they arrested 1,200 Negroes. 1,300 are in jail, 1,200 of whom are Negroes. Over four days war production was reduced by nearly fifty per cent. The good name of American democracy, in the eyes of people throughout the world has been disgraced.

Detroit Race Riot Inquiry Opens

World-Telegram
New York, N.Y.

By ANTHONY G. DE LORENZO,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

DETROIT, June 24.—Gov. Harry F. Kelly ordered further relaxation of his emergency proclamation today as "nearly normal" conditions prevailed and a four-man fact-finding committee explored causes of Detroit's race riots which took 31 lives.

JUN 24 1943

The Governor lifted all restrictions in outlying Oakland and Macomb counties and extended the Wayne County (Detroit) curfew from 10 p. m. to midnight. He also granted permission for sale of liquor in Wayne County from 7 a. m. to 10 p. m. Since Monday's rioting there has been an absolute ban on sale of alcoholic beverages.

Governor Kelly's new order, indicative of generally calm conditions, came as authorities sped prosecution of more than 1300 persons arrested during the bloody riots.

Jail sentences of 90 days were given 69 defendants, including nine white persons, yesterday and 120 more warrants were recommended for 168 persons.

Mr. Kelly disclosed that 1687 troops held on alert at upstate Michigan armories were demobilized and that soldiers sent into the Ford plant yesterday were withdrawn. The troops were dispatched to the plant for "protection" purposes when 1500 foremen walked out.

By the United Press.

The Berlin Radio last night called the race riots in Detroit a "revolt" and said the United States was attempting to hide an "abusive social situation" by blaming a legendary fifth column for the uprising.

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JUN 25 1943

JUN 24 1943

ing was hinted today as court stepped up sentencing of minor violators and authorities indicated more serious charges might include that of murder.

Only misdemeanants so far had appeared in municipal courts, but Gov. Harry F. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jefferies, Jr., disclosed they are considering calling a special grand jury to sift charges growing out of street fighting which took 29 lives and resulted in more than 1300 arrests.

First hint of federal aid in prosecuting riot leaders came when it was learned that John S. Bugas, Federal Bureau of Investigation chief here, is questioning prisoners.

The general scene remained calm as 3900 federal troops, augmented by state troops, state police and city police, controlled the mob-wrecked Negro district.

War production which was hampered seriously when Negro absenteeism rose as high as 75 per cent yesterday returned almost to normal today.

Governor Kelly disclosed that he had called Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton to assist in preparing punishment of "those guilty of inciting these terrible disorders.".

"We aren't after the people who played only a minor part in the riots," he said. "We want the real inciters and assaulters, and we'll find them by sorting out the prisoners we have and by seeking them in their hiding places if they are not among the prisoners.

In Recorder's Court, 34 Negroes were given 90-day jail sentences yesterday and 15 others, including the first five white defendants, received similar sentences today. One Negro was acquitted and others have been fined.

In sentencing the white persons, three of whom were 17-year-old boys, Judge John P. Scallen said: "They were there (at the scene of one of the riots). I've got to treat them all alike regardless of ... days."

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against the possibility of further disorders.

The troops were stationed in the plant where Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines are being assembled.

Brigadier General William E. Guthner, commanding Army troops brought here Monday night to halt bitter race rioting in which 29 were killed, said that only a platoon of troops were sent to the Rouge plant and "only for security."

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There had been no outbreak of violence, General Guthner said, adding that the men were called as a result of a walkout of foremen, which it was feared might spread into a flare-up and bring a renewal of rioting.

Meantime, mass prosecution of 500 misdemeanor and felony cases proceeded as Governor Harry F. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries announced they planned to hunt out the "real inciters and assaulters" of Monday's bitter race rioting which took a toll of 29 dead and more than 700 injured.

Ninety-day sentences were meted out by Judge John P. Scallen to the first of the defendants—both Negro and white—in recorder's court, bringing from Judge Scallen the comment that "this court makes no distinction of color."

Meanwhile, peace prevailed under 3,800 U. S. Army troops and only relatively minor disturbances had been reported since the soldiers moved in Monday night. Work in war-busy factories again approached normal.

General Guthner said soldiers would remain on duty at least until the end of the week.

Federal prosecution of some offenders in the rioting was indicated in Governor Kelly's announcement that John S. Bugas, Detroit chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewing prisoners and aiding in sorting out those against whom the most serious charges would be brought.

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Dies To Investigate Detroit Rioting

WASHINGTON, June 23.—(AP)—Recent racial disturbances, including the Detroit race riot which took more than a score of lives, will be investigated by the Dies committee during public hearings starting next week, Chairman Dies, Democrat, Texas, disclosed today.

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Dies said the hearings, originally intended to inquire into Japanese activities and the method of releasing Japanese from internment camps, would be broadened as a result of reports by committee investigators indicating that the Detroit rioting resulted from "combined operation of foreign and domestic propaganda groups."

IN DETROIT RIOTING

New York Times

Clergyman Also Lays Origins of Trouble to Black Legion, Followers of Gerald Smith

New York, N. Y.

AND NEGRO CHAUVINISM

German Bund and Japanese Agent Are Also Said to Have Fomented Race Hatreds

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[The following story on the origins of the Detroit race riots was written by a Detroit clergyman who was an eye witness of the clashes. He has requested Religious News Service to withhold his name.]

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JUN 25 1943

The brew of hatred which community leaders in Detroit have been watching with anxiety for a long time has at last bubbled over in the worst example of race rioting since World War days.

The elements in the situation are fairly obvious to anyone who has watched developments in Detroit. The Black Legion, the migrant workers from the South, many of whom were Klansmen before rioting in the Northern industrial metropolis; the rabid followers of Gerald Smith and his Committee of One Million; and the chauvinism of the Negro worker who has won a degree of freedom from the economic peonage of the South, are all contributing factors to the explosion which has resulted in the taking of at least thirty-one lives, bodily injuries to hundreds and property damage running into millions of dollars.

The majority of the rioters were obviously of the Southern migrant-worker group. Their speech, their dress, their attitude all betrayed their origin. They thoroughly enjoyed creating the havoc, which was undoubtedly one of the major victories for the Axis powers since the beginning of the war.

The rioting was not confined to the white group. In the Negro sections it was equally dangerous for a white man to appear or to drive his car through the street. I repeatedly saw stonings and assaults by Negroes upon whites. This pattern of reprisal is bound to occur in a situation of this kind.

Earlier Troubles Recalled

The Sojourner Truth riots of a year ago and the Packard strike early in June plainly showed the trend of events.

The Ku Klux Klan is extremely active and well organized, although operating under a variety of aliases and subterfuges. The Klan has boasted openly that Michigan is now its stronghold. The Klan has stated that its Michigan unit was dissolved, but the fact remains that it is operating under the cloak of new names, chiefly, the United Sons of America and the Mantle Club. The Mantle Club was the name which the klansmen took in the Packard situation, recruiting members ostensibly for a social purpose but winding up with a thorough program of hate dissemination.

There is no doubt that constructive measures should have been taken before the situation reached its present pitch of evil. Church and community leaders called upon Mayor Jeffries following the Sojourner Truth riots, asking him to appoint officially an interracial commission. This he refused to do because he maintained the commission would create more problems than it would solve.

These same leaders, however, persisted and, contrary to the impression conveyed by the press, had already, before the present trouble broke out, unofficially named an interracial commission of fifty outstanding leaders of the community — Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Negro, foreign-born, labor (both AFL and CIO) and Board of Commerce and Board of Education personnel.

Three Steps Are Proposed

Three constructive steps need to be taken.

First, a more vigilant and aggressive attitude by law-enforcement authorities, without unfairness to any of the minority groups. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the local law enforcement authorities must be strengthened in their task, which has had only limited success. There are estimated to be 18,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. There are 15,000 former members of the German-American Bund, many of whom are employed in key positions in war production factories, and who openly express their sympathy.

The conviction and sentence to death of the traitor, Max Stephan, in whose restaurant the bund had regularly met, has frightened these bund members so that they have resorted to sabotage, not in the factories but on the morale front, and it may be possible that some of the trained saboteurs mentioned by J. Edgar Hoover have reached Detroit and have played a role, through the use of skillful techniques, in whipping up the hatred which resulted in these riots.

Japanese Agent Accused

On the side of the Negroes there remain some evidences of the activities of a Japanese subversive leader, who lived for years in the Negro community in Detroit, married a Negro wife, and spent many thousands of dollars, supplied by Japanese government. He has been arrested, but there are at least some hundreds of his followers remaining in Detroit who are not altogether won away from the picture which he painted, offering the leadership of Japan to the col-

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U. S. Prosecution Of Detroit Riot Leaders Hinted

World-Telegram
New York, N.Y.

City Quiet Again And Absenteeism Is Almost Normal

By JERRY RIDEOUT,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

DETROIT, June 23.—Quick state and federal punitive action against instigators of Detroit's race riot-

JUN 24 1943

Federal Troops Sent to Ford's Rouge Factory

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Platoon Ordered to Plant Only for Security, General Says.

DETROIT, June 23.—(AP)—Federal troops were brought into the aircraft engine division of the Ford Motor Company's Rouge plant today, a company spokesman said, because of "certain disturbances which had occurred in the plant" and also to guard

KLANSMEN BLAMED

11 Killed, 400 Hurt as Riots Sweep Detroit

Youthful Mobsters Join Fray, Attack Both

Whites and Negroes.

DETROIT, June 21.—(AP)—Race rioting that caused 11 deaths and more than 400 injuries and spread almost to the steps of Detroit's city hall brought quick mobilization of state troops, Michigan state police and military police tonight to halt the bloodshed.

Nine of the dead were Negroes, several of them shot by policemen attempting to restore order.

Two were white, one a physician pulled from his automobile and beaten fatally as he tried to answer a call in the riot area.

Governor Harry Kelly, of Michigan, hurried to Detroit and after a conference with Mayor Edward J. Jeffries Jr., said he had decided "for the present" against a declaration of martial law.

"We've got to stop this today if we're ever going to," Kelly said.

400 Arrested.

More than 400 had been arrested, as the most serious race disorders in the city's history continued, with isolated outbreaks occurring on Detroit's widely-known Woodward avenue, broad "main stem" of this war-busy center.

On Woodward avenue just north of the downtown business district youthful mobsters entered the rioting, attacking whites and Negroes indiscriminately, pulling trolleys off wires, and breaking windows in street cars, buses and automobiles.

Tear gas was used in several instances to break up groups, one of them in Campus Martius just across Woodward avenue from the city hall.

Steel Helmets.

Steel helmets and extra tear gas dispersal bombs were issued this afternoon to police patrolling the riot area. A section roughly three miles long extending east and north of downtown Detroit.

Today's rioting, police agreed, was touched off by an isolated fist fight late last night on the bridge that connects Belle Isle, recreational and swimming center in the Detroit river, with the city.

It spread swiftly, given impetus, some Negro leaders said, by an erroneous but widely-believed report that a Negro woman and child were slain on Belle Isle last night.

U. S. Troops Are Stationed In Ford Plant

Courier-Journal

Platoon Moves In When Foremen Quit

Louisville, Ky.

From Wire Dispatches

Detroit, June 23.—Federal troops were taken into the aircraft engine division of the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant today, a company spokesman said, because of "certain disturbances which had occurred in the plant," and also to guard against the possibility of further disorders.

The troops were stationed in the plant, where Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines are being assembled.

Brig. Gen. William E. Guthner, commanding Army troops brought here Monday night to halt bitter race rioting in which thirty were killed, said that only a platoon of troops was sent to the Rouge plant, and "only for security."

Foremen Walk Out.

There had been no outbreaks of violence, General Guthner said, adding that the men were called as a result of a walkout of 1,500 foremen, which it was feared might spread into a flare-up and bring a renewal of the rioting.

The foremen walked out in protest against the suspension or discharge recently of some sixty of their fellow members of the Independent Foremen's Association of America.

Robert N. Kays, president of the association, declared the men were not striking, but were quitting their jobs.

"We would not permit them to strike again, so they are simply turning their cards in to their supervisors and leaving the plant," he said.

Riot Cases Speeded.

Meantime, mass prosecution of 500 misdemeanor and felony cases proceeded as Gov. Harry F. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries announced they planned to hunt out the "real inciters and assaulters" of Monday's rioting.

Governor Kelly pointed out, however, that "the scores of cases being taken to court today are no criterion," adding that those were persons who played only minor parts in the disturbances.

"The real inciters and assaulters are the ones we are after," Kelly declared in a joint statement with Mayor Jeffries, "and when they are found their punishment will be fully commensurate with their crimes."

Asserting that if a grand jury is needed to determine the cause of the riots "we'll have it."

11 ARE KILLED IN DETROIT RIOTING

BETWEEN RACES

Age-Herald—

State Troops Mobilized And Martial Law Is Declared

Birmingham, Ala.

DETROIT, June 21—(AP)—Gov. Harry F. Kelly ordered martial law Monday night in Detroit, where race riots killed 11 men and injured more than 500 since last midnight. Martial law will take effect at 10 p.m., Kelly said.

Declaring a "state of emergency," the governor's proclamation was issued as rioting continued in the tense city with white mobsters burning two homes occupied by Negro families, a fight on a street car in which a Negro slashed a white man, and numerous other incidents.

A gang of white men, seeking to take two Negroes from the custody of police in a scout car, overturned the car and set it afire. The two Negroes and the police leaped to safety. The Negroes fled.

* * *

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Mobsters Enter Picture

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Several lesser outbreaks of racial friction have occurred in recent months in war-crowded Detroit, the most prominent halting war production and making more than 20,000 idle in the Packard Motor Car Company plant. State troops were called to Detroit a year ago last Spring when rioting was threatened over Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth Housing project here. They moved the Negroes in to the new quarters without incident.

Production of war plants in this area was reported little affected by Monday's fighting, although the Ford Motor Company said hundreds of Negro workers left their jobs after receiving calls that they were needed at home. A Packard spokesman said production at its plant remained normal.

Schools Are Closed

Fourteen elementary schools were closed as parents either kept their children home or went to the schools to get them. Two streetcar lines were suspended when motormen refused to operate the cars through the danger area. All-night theaters were warned to close Monday night; downtown retail establishments closed their doors in time for their staffs to reach home before dark. All saloons were closed.

Center of the early rioting was Detroit's "Paradise Valley"—Hastings Street which extends north from the downtown area a few blocks east of Woodward Avenue. A police inspector reported every window on this street for 25 blocks was broken.

Hastings Street also was the scene of some of the fatal encounters between rioters and police. Two Negroes were killed by police bullets in a gun fight that followed an attempt to loot a clothing store at Hastings and Division Streets, a fight in which two policemen were shot and one, Sgt. Floyd C. Noot, so critically wounded that for a time during the day police headquarters had him listed as dead.

DETROIT RIOTS LAID TO TEEN-AGED YOUTH

Times, New York

FBI Regional Head Warns of Juvenile Delinquency Tide

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHARLEVOIX, Mich., July 12—Detroit's race riots of June 21 were attributed today to teen-age boys and girls by John S. Bugas, special agent in charge of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In a talk before the Michigan Association of Police Chiefs he also said that the Detroit Police Department "did a magnificent and heroic job under circumstances that for a time rivaled those in Guadalcanal, Bataan and in North Africa."

Attaching no blame to law enforcement, despite criticisms by "police baiters," he described the riots as part of the pattern of a rising tide of juvenile delinquency which threatened to put law enforcement to one of its greatest tests in the near future.

"If the present trend of many of the youth of this country is not restricted or reformed," he said, "the next ten years will see an avalanche of youthful criminals that will be difficult, if at all possible, to stem."

MICHIGAN INQUIRY SEEKS RIOT CAUSES

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

Governor Assigns Welfare Aide to Set Pattern for Interviews With All Arrested

BASIS IS 'SOCIOLOGICAL'

Federal Forces Stay on Duty and State Troopers Stand by as Regulations Are Eased

From a Staff Correspondent

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 24—While Detroiters, under the watchful eyes of Federal and State troops, returned to more normal ways of life, Gov. Harry F. Kelly of Michigan, set in motion today an inquiry to determine the underlying social causes of the worst race riot in the history of this great industrial region.

The Governor summoned from Lansing Dr. Charles F. Ramsey, director of the Bureau of Child Welfare in the Department of Social Welfare, to prepare a set of questionnaires whereby every one of 900 to 1,000 rioters held in jail by the police may be interviewed for a story of his life.

City and State officials were being asked by leaders in other communities for advice on handling racial disturbances should they arise. E. M. Butler, assistant chief of detectives of New York, in charge of the Harlem district, visit-

ion against anyone except with the rioters.
and police authorities car- "This whole thing is sociologi-
arms of any description.cal," said the Governor, "and we've
2,700 Federal troops weregot to establish, by scientific in-
with motor patrol units,vestigation, what sort of mal-
e 2,300 State Troopers alsoadjustments bring about such a
anding by. situation."
Governor took personal com-
the inquiry into the causes
iot, backed by a committee
after a brief session this
adjourned pending the col-
of the factual, social data
compiled from interviews

Restrictions Are Relaxed

Meanwhile, and acting on the
unanimous recommendations of
military, State and city officials
Governor Kelly relaxed still fur-

open.
The Governor continued the ban
against the congregating of crowds
along public streets, and the strong
back. Bars were allowed to re-
which after

DETROIT UNCERTAIN OVER RIOT'S CAUSE

Officials Ponder Axis Plot and Planned Rebellion Idea, but Lack Evidence of Either

SOCIAL UNREST LONG FELT

By FRANK B. WOODFORD

DETROIT, June 26—Were the race riots which swept Detroit this week, costing more than 30 lives and unestimated but heavy property damage, inspired by Axis agents, or were they the result of a well-laid plot, carefully organized by hate-breeding groups and societies? Or were they the spontaneous result of deeply-rooted sociological and economic conditions which have been evident here for several years?

So far only cursory investigations have been held. Others, including a probable grand jury and a possible Congressional investigation, are shaping up. Until then, opinions can only be based on the most readily accessible facts and information, according to local authorities.

In the first place, all official bodies, including police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Military Intelligence, report that so far not a shred of evidence has been uncovered to indicate that the rioting was instigated by subversive interests. Neither, they say, has anything conclusive been turned up to indicate that the riots were planned.

Subversion in Background

There is one thing that the police are not overlooking. That is the possibility that the riots may have been an incident arising out of subversive groundwork laid over a long period of time. Police recall that eight years ago a Japanese cultist was active among Detroit's N[illegible] and that he worked up a large and vociferous following. His work has been linked to the Japanese Black Dragon Society.

Labor groups and other organizations have insisted that the Ku Klux Klan is at the bottom of the trouble, and R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, recently announced that he had turned over to the authorities evidence of their work in connection with the recent strike at the Packard Motor Car Company.

However, FBI agents, while admitting that the Klan, or at least an offshoot of it, has shown signs of coming to life in Detroit and has possibly 3,000 active members, say that they have failed to find any direct connection between that group and last Monday's racial disturbances.

Many persons can be found in Detroit who will claim that the disturbances were neither inspired nor an outgrowth of frictions created by the influx of Negro and Southern white labor under the city's war production program.

A Negro's View

"It goes back much farther than that," one Negro leader stated. "These riots had their genesis nearly eighty years ago, and the history of Detroit will prove it.

"Basically, the trouble goes back to the Civil War when the immigrant whites saw the freed slaves a threat to their economic security, slim as that was. The Northern worker saw the Southern Negro as cheap labor competition and they have seen it since then from time to time."

For many years the Detroit automobile industry held the threat of imported Negro labor over the heads of its workers, in the opinion of labor leaders, and until 1937 kept Detroit and the industry open shop. Detroit now has a Negro population estimated at 200,000, an increase of about 60,000 since the 1940 census.

In 1916, the city had fewer than 10,000 Negroes. The big influx occurred during the years in which the automobile industry was expanding. Negro labor was recruited and brought to Detroit without any planning for its needs or for the needs of the white people into whose midst the Negroes were thrown.

These conditions resulted in noticeable ill feeling between the two races over a period of twenty years. The Negro colony was largely confined to the worst slum areas, and there are records here of many instances of violence when Negroes attempted to move into predominantly white neighborhoods and met determined resistance.

Race troubles here have been played down for years, but nevertheless they have existed.

And the Remedies?

What is being done to correct the situation? For the moment nothing beyond getting Detroit back to a somewhat normal condition.

Governor Harry F. Kelly has named a fact-finding committee composed of State and city officials, but their work will be only of a preliminary nature and will be largely concerned with immediate occurrences.

Mr. Thomas has offered a tangible plan for the future. Besides calling for a special grand jury, he has recommended an adequate program of housing, park and recreation construction to be financed with Federal funds. He has demanded that plant managements as well as workers recognize the right of Negroes to jobs equal to their skills and seniority, and finally he seeks the creation of a permanent city bi-racial committee to make further recommendations looking toward the elimination of racial differences and friction, particularly in the public schools.



Michigan's Governor Kelly, top, and Mayor of Detroit Jeffries are sifting reasons for recent race riots in that city.



Borsos and Renato

SEEK CAUSE OF RIOTS

Riot Issue Stirs Mich. CIO Parley

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Frank Ryhlick

(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT, June 28. — The vrst showdown vote in this highly-significant convention of the Michigan state CIO resulted this afternoon in an initial victory for pro-war forces that sought to condemn fifth column elements behind last week's anti-Negro riots.

The delegates, on a show of hands, rejected a resolution sponsored by the resolutions committee which failed to mention the Ku Klux Klan and other fifth column elements.

The vote did not settle the issue, however, for the resolution went back to the resolutions committee where it will be revised and resubmitted.

Immediately after the vote, Klan elements, Trotskyites and allied groups set out with Hitler-like tactics to confuse the issue demanding that the resolutions committee also blame the Communist Party for the riots. Athers demanded that all "aliens" be investigated and indirectly sought to place the blame on the Negro people by talk of "Japanese activity" among them.

A woman delegate from Ford Local 600 was booed by this disruptive minority when she demanded that any union member found to have taken part in the anti-Negro riots be expelled. But she received thunderous applause from the majority.

The handling of the resolution on the anti-Negro riots gives some indication of the complexity, tenseness and importance of the 4-day convention which opened today.

Nearly 1,000 delegates, representing 700,000 CIO workers, are meeting in this first labor gathering since last week's insurrection, and the first also since Congress overrode President Roosevelt's veto of the Connally-Smith-Harness anti-labor bill.

Issues of importance to the entire nation face the convention, and the delegates know it.

Membership of the important committees, appointed by the state CIO leadership, does not represent either the CIO in this state or the composition of the convention. That explains the character of the original resolution brought out by the resolutions committee.

TROTSKYITE HEADS COMMITTEE

Emil Mazey, chairman of the committee, is a leading Trotskyite in Detroit. Kindred elements hold key positions on the major committees. The resolutions committee, for example, is headed by Victor Reuther, brother of UAW vice-president Walter Reuther and a "Socialist" with Norman Thomas connections in his own right.

There were no women delegates on the committees as originally named. It required a motion from the floor, by a woman delegate from United Auto WWorkers Local 208, to have a woman named to each committee.

"Women are playing a large part in the industry of this state," she said. "Now is the time to give them a chance for education and development in the unions."

The motion was passed, but again the disruptive clamor—aided by some honest but misguided elements—so confused things that a voice vote and two showings of hands were required to settle the issue.

Organized booing and shouting has been made a standard tactic to hear what the motion was about.

SHELTON TAPPES

The floor revolt against the resolutions committee proposal on the anti-Negro riots was started by Shelton Tappes, secretary of the huge Ford Local 600.

"The riots last week were inspired by fifth column agents, and we should not be afraid to say so," he said. "Our resolution should call for an offensive by the CIO against the fifth column. It should call for the dissolution of the Ku Klux Klan and the jailing of all its officers."

He was supported vigorously by a delegate from United Steelworkers Local 1511, and delegates from several other locals joined promptly.

Nat Ganley of UAW Local 155 call for the dissolution but he took the position that you couldn't call for the jailing of leaders until a grand jury had in-vestigated them.

Mazey further proposed, as did the resolution, that the investigations committee had to make a thorough investigation of the causes of the original resolution contained the startling

Chairman Mazey of the resolu- the original resolution that the Committee promised to hear witnesses on the res- featism.

One [illegible]

sion promptly. It was at this point that the attack on the Communist Party came from the Trotzkyite-Klan-Lewis and other elements of this kind.

COMMUNIST ROLE

The facts are that the Communist Party played a leading role in the defense of the Negro riot victims, in demanding that the fifth column be smashed.

The convention delegates know this, and also know of the tremendous contribution to the war effort made by the Communist Party in Michigan, but with the composition of the resolutions committee being what it is, anything can be expected when the resolution is brought out again.

The deepness of old factional lines, and the role of the conscious anti-war groups, showed the importance of the efforts by the most active pro-war elements to build units of all pro-war forces around the leadership of President Roosevelt and the CIO program of Philip Murray.

Frequently, delegates would interrupt proceedings of the opening session by calling from the floor "Let's vote," indicating the intensity of the behind-the-scenes struggle for offices.

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SCHOLLE NOT A CANDIDATE

August Scholle, regional director and national representative of the CIO, has announced that he will not seek re-election to the presidency of the Michigan CIO Council. Scholle, in his report to the convention, gives support to the policies adopted at the May 14 meeting of the CIO Executive Board in Cleveland, but in practice he has been working closely with the Reuther-Mazey forces.

These forces are talking about supporting John Gibson, a vice-president of the State Council and a member of the Dairy Workers Union, for the presidency.

Supporters of George Addes, vigorously pro-war international secretary-treasurer of the UAW, are talking around convention corridors about C. Part Quinn, president of the Wayne County CIO Council, for state presidency, but nothing definite has been said.

Progressive forces generally are seeking to obtain as much unity as possible of all pro-war forces on the basis of program and, from this viewpoint, on the question of a broad and representative leadership that will carry out total war policies.

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A very crucial issue facing the convention is the demand for creation of an independent labor party. This move was initiated by various Socialist, Trotzkyite, Lewis and reactionary Republican elements at the June 11-12 convention of Wayne County Labor's Non-Partisan League.

The Militant, official Trotzkyite organ which has been denied second class mailing privileges because of its subversive, anti-war character, was placed on every convention table this morning. It bore the banner headline: "Michigan unionists advocate independent labor party."

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The reaction of many delegates is that such a move would serve only to split labor away from President Roosevelt, and would correspondingly strengthen the most reactionary sections of the Republican Party which are dominant in Michigan. Also, state election laws are such that a third party could not get on the ballot without a very prolonged struggle.

Issue Is Debated in House

WASHINGTON, June 23 (AP)—Detroit's recent race riots stirred short-lived but tempestuous debate in the House today.

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The flurry of one-minute speeches ended only after Representative John W. McCormack, majority leader, declared that the situation "is bad enough without making it worse" and urged the members to refrain from "statements that will aggravate the situation."

It was touched off when Representative Samuel Dickstein, Democrat of New York, chairman of the Immigration Committee, asserted "the riots in Michigan must be great aid to the Nazi Government and the Axis countries."

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He said that two years ago he called upon the Dies committee on unAmerican activities to investigate the operations of the Ku Klux Klan in Michigan but that "nothing was done although the committee investigated nearly every other organization."

Representative Joe Starnes, Democrat of Alabama, a member of the Dies committee, retorted that Mr. Dickstein had "misstated the facts," that the Klan had been investigated thoroughly and that the committee found the organization had only 10,000 paid members throughout the country at the time.

New York, N.Y.

Representative John E. Rankin, Democrat of Mississippi, entered the controversy to tell those "who supported the anti-poll tax measure" recently passed by the House that "their chickens are coming home to roost."

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"Detroit," he said, "has suffered one of the most disastrous race riots in history. This trouble has been hastened by the crazy policies of the so-called fair employment practices committee in attempting to mix the races in all kinds of employment."

Representative William P. Lambertson (Republican of Kansas) called the riot "terribly regretful—a national disgrace and a State disgrace," and said:

"I wonder if they didn't get the precedent from the sit-down strikes of a few years ago."

Representative Clare E. Hoffman (Republican of Michigan) said that the President was to be commended "for the courage he has shown for once" in sending Federal troops into Detroit.

Dies Committee to Investigate

Meanwhile, Representative Martin Dies of Texas said that his committee would investigate recent racial disturbances, including the Detroit race riot. Public hearings will start next week, Chairman Dies said.

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The committee, he said, has evidence that Japanese agents working through established organizations, had promoted racial prejudice in the Detroit area presumably to interfere with war production and to break down home front morale.

Recent testimony given to the committee by officials of the Ku Klux Klan, he added, disclosed that the KKK had enrolled many members in the Detroit area. Whether the committee would inquire further into the KKK activities, Mr. Dies did not say.

Four labor leaders and a churchman, from New York and Detroit, visited the White House to ask that President Roosevelt act to prosecute those responsible for the Detroit race riot.

JUN 24 1943

One of the group, Charles Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee in New York, said that the President was asked to dissolve the Ku Klux Klan and arrest its leaders.

The delegation, which presented its views to Marvin H. McIntyre, the President's secretary, included, in addition to Mr. Collins, Norman F. Kinzie of the Council of Churches of Detroit; Sheldon Tapp, secretary of the Ford local of the United Auto Workers, CIO, in Detroit; Morris Gumpel of the Furriers Union, New York, and Sam Kramberg of the joint executive board of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders Unions, New York.

An Eyewitness Account of the Detroit Riot

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

By Tom Dombrowski

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 22. — The lynch spirit that prevailed on Woodward Avenue for 16 hours, beginning at 3 A. M. on Monday, lasted until martial law went into effect at 10 P. M. A mob of several hundred grew into thousands as hoodlums worked up into a frenzied pitch by the applause of thousands on the streets, seized innocent Negro war workers and beat them senseless while police looked on.

JUN 23 1943

At the height of the rioting hardly a dozen policemen of a force of 3,500, plus 4,000 auxiliary police were patroling the Negro community.

I saw Negro war workers on their way to work, hauled out of their cars, mauled, trampled on, and then hauled away to hospitals by police. One hoodlum consistently would disconnect the trolley line and the mob would begin its work. The hoodlums smashed trolley doors if the motorman resisted and marched through the car to drag their victims out. This outrage was repeated time and again.

Daily Worker

I called the attention of the police to one ringleader organizing this work. The police ignored me.

MOB IMPEDES FIREMEN

In one small block near Peterboro and Woodward, six cars were set ablaze and then systematically destroyed. Attempts of firemen to put out the fires that blazed high were impeded by the mob.

During the height of the riot, a man standing beside me, a Rumanian worker with tears streaming down his face kept repeating "I am ashamed for America! I am ashamed for America!

JUN 23 1943

At the Vernor Apartments, police poured bullets into the building occupied by 100 people. State troopers stormed the place with guns drawn after tossing tear gas shells. Pajama clad men and women were dragged out and put against the wall with hands raised. A block away thousands of white rioters offered encouragement and assistance.

New York, N.Y.

During the entire rioting I did not see one gun drawn on Woodward Ave., but I saw police shooting in the Negro community. If there is any proof needed it is only necessary to cite statistics. Nineteen Negroes were shot and killed by police and none of the murderous bunch on Woodward Ave. was even threatened and none was shot by the police. I saw Negroes beaten within ten feet of police.

JUN 23 1943

IS CHICAGO NEXT?

One of the ringleaders, speaking to another hoodlum, was heard to say, "wait'll it breaks in Chicago and you'll see the real thing."

I toured the Negro communities and watched thousands of war workers sitting on their porches or congregated on street corners. The situation was tense. It was like a bomb that would go off any minute.

The riot car was out again today—no, not on Woodward Ave. but in the Negro district. Police with shotguns poised ordered Negroes off the streets.

From this tense situation I drove into Hamtramck and visited every neighborhood where Negroes lived. There I saw Negroes sitting peacefully on porches as their white neighbors watered the grass. Children played together.

A few individual outbreaks were immediately stopped by police and no violence occurred. There were no casualties or injuries in a city within the heart of Detroit; Hamtramck is surrounded on all sides by Detroit. Hamtramck was a different world. There was none of that frantic madness visible.

Today the streets of Detroit are still littered with glass and stones and parts of automobiles. The people are still out in the streets. Negro war workers are not risking their lives to go back to work, they are waiting for assurance that their homes will not be destroyed and their families injured. They are looking hopefully to the authorities for a pledge of that safety and security.

JUN 23 1943

South's Blame For Race Riots Hit by McGill

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
June 23, 1943

Editor Protests to Detroit's Charge That 'Influx' Aided Trouble.

By The Associated Press.

Ralph McGill, editor of The Atlanta Constitution, last night protested to Detroit authorities statements that "an influx of southerners" into war plants contributed to race riots in the city.

"Detroit is learning what the south learned long ago that the race problem is a national problem and not a sectional problem," he said in a telegram addressed to Mayor Edward J. Jeffries and Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon in Detroit.

McGill's Telegram.

McGill's telegram follows:

"According to press reports you have stated that an influx of southerners into Detroit's war plants contributed to the riots in your city. I wish to respectfully but emphatically protest this statement. Detroit is learning what the south learned long ago that the race problem is a national problem and not a sectional problem. It grows out of injustices, maladjustments and out of economic inequalities of which Detroit and the south have each their share. The south does not criticize Detroit but shares with Detroit the hope for an early settlement.

No Trouble Here.

"What I do wish to protest is the cheap and easy habit of blaming any and all racial troubles on people, and we will try, with the by some obscure reasoning of the War Department that a real problem, but ing at it as we know working at hers. Ours ral communities with gro people for white and with 75 per cent 's Negroes, still has rouble.

"We have a real problem, but we are working at it as we know Detroit was working at hers. Ours certainly were not southern-ers. Please let me call your attention to the fact that the south, with 75 per cent of the Negro population, has fire as was Detroit. The 15-year-old troops, most of them youngsters who began your riots in Detroit. The south even when they occur of the nation's Negroes, still has no real trouble here.

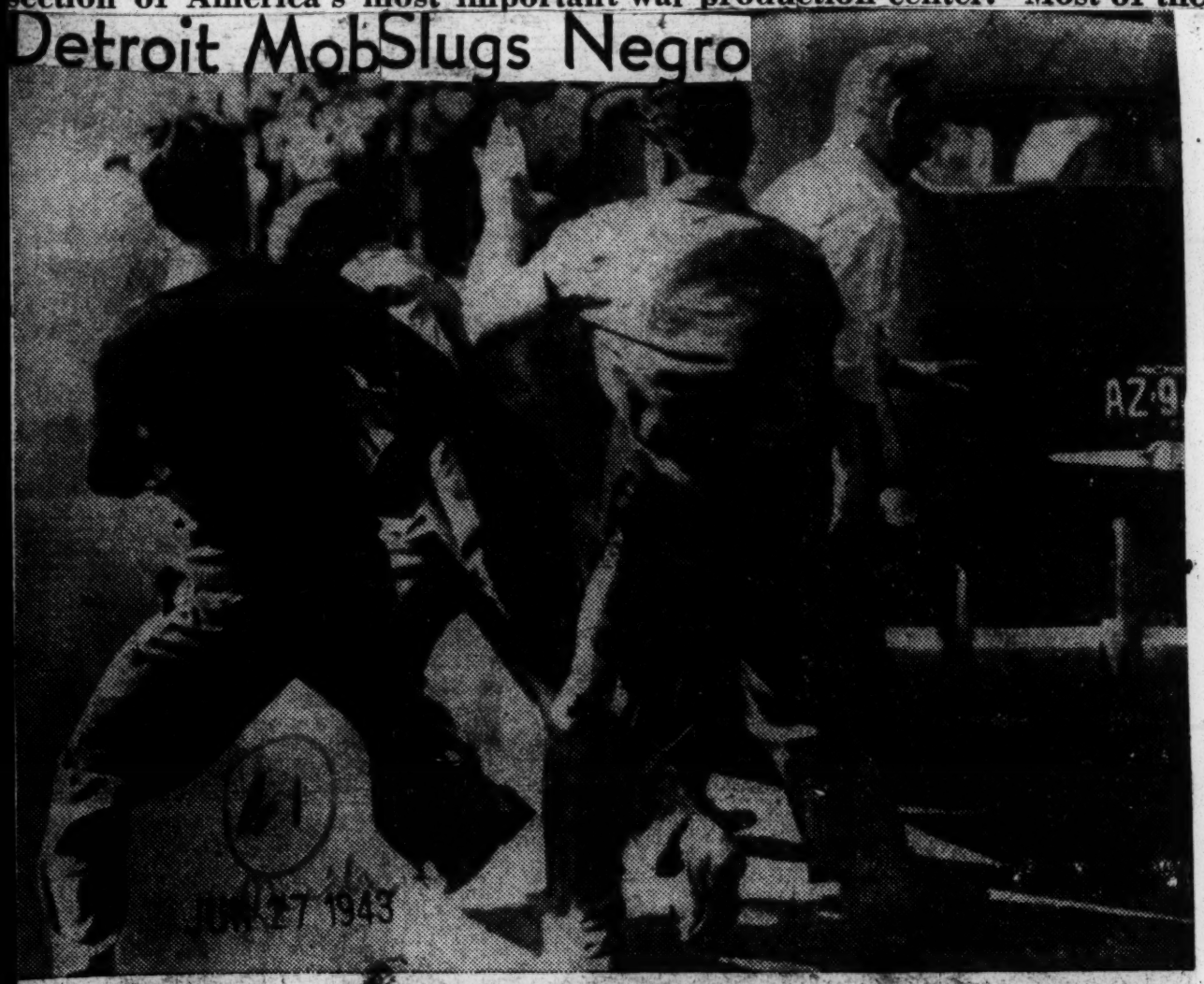
Where to Find Axis Plotters Behind Detroit Insurrection

By Frank Rhylick
(The Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT.—Let's look beneath the surface of the bloody violence and police terrorism that broke out against Detroit's Negro citizens last Sunday evening.

JUN 27 1943
The Worker
New York, N. Y.

Let's look at the fascist web that has extended its threats into every section of America's most important war production center. Most of the



This helpless Negro was dragged from a streetcar and beaten unmercifully by a gang of Detroit men inflamed by false reports of Negro violence spread by the Ku Klux Klan and Axis agents during two-day disorders.

things to be seen are not new. The attention of the Justice Department and local prosecuting attorneys has been called to them many times.

But it is extremely important to look at them now.

Detroit police officials, under Commissioner John H. Witherspoon, are trying to whitewash the fact that 22 out of 24 dead Negroes were shot by police. (Negroes accounted for 24 of 28 casualties at latest count.) They are trying to do it by pretending that a conspiracy never existed.

JUN 27 1943

President Roosevelt described the violence of Sunday and Monday as insurrection. The police are trying to give the impression that it was merely a "race riot" involving "white and Negro hoodlums."

DIES MANEUVER

The Dies Committee enters the picture with talk of "Japanese agents" stirring up racial prejudice, which means the committee will investigate the Negro people. Congressman Martin Dies admits that the Ku Klux Klan has many followers in Detroit, but does not say whether the committee will investigate the KKK further.

Michigan's Governor Kelly appoints a special committee to determine "underlying causes" of that was obviously a planned conspiracy agaist the war effort. But the members of this committee are state and local officials including Commissioner Witherspoon, who failed so miserably in handling the crisis that President Roosevelt had to restore order with the Army.

JUN 27 1943

After three day of "investigation," Witherspoon and Mayor Jeffries announced they could find no evidence of fifth column work. Naturally, they could not hope to find this by grilling the 1,200 prisoners—90 per cent of whom were Negroes arrested indiscriminately. Nor could police riot squads find the fifth column by bursting with drawn weapons into the Negro YWCA during a peacefull lunch-hour.

WHERE TO LOOK

But there are places where investigations would net rich results, where Federal authorities could find the evidence to smash the organized fifth column that has its nerve-center in and around Detroit.

At 89 Forest Ave. West is the Forest Social Club.

This reporter telephoned there Thursday night and asked for Charles Spare.

It should be interpolated here that the Forest Social Club has for several years been the Klan headquarters in Detroit.

JUN 27 1943

Spare is the former Michigan Grand Dragon and National Grand Exalted Cyclops of the KKK.

The telephone conversation went something like this:

"Is Mr. Charles Spare there?"

"I don't know him."

"Is this the Forest Social Club?"

"I don't know."

"Is this Temple 1-5444?"

"I don't know. Goodbye."

The reporter checked the number just to be sure, and called back later. This time he asked:

JUN 27 1943

"Is this Temple 1-5444?"

"I can't tell you anything," was the answer.

In other words, the Klan center wasn't talking. There was good reason.

A "riot" that killed 28 persons and injured over 700 is serious business

This reporter was told that Charles Spare could be reached by calling the phone listed under the name of "Pearl Spare." A woman answered:

"No, Mr. Spare isn't here. I can't tell you where he is. He left town this morning. . . . He may be gone several days. . . . No, he can't be reached. . . . He'll be travelling. . . . His secretary said he may go as far as Muskegon, and may not. . . . No, I can't tell you how to reach his office."

It might be interesting to know where Mr. Spare went, and why. Also it might be worth knowing the nature of the large meeting in Forest Social Club the Tuesday before the outbreak of the anti-Negro terrorism. Passersby said it was the largest gathering they had seen in the club for some time. Local Klansmen, however, haven't always been so secretive, or perhaps so frightened.

The government is in possession of an affidavit submitted by an investigator who had a conversation with a "Charles" at the Forest Social Club on June 20, 1942. The conversation concerned a wild-cat strike at the Hudson Naval Arsenal.

"We ordered the boys to go back to work," said "Charles."

"There was nothing else we could do after Washington took the stand it did. . . Aren't we fighting a war to keep the Japs from dominating the white race? But the blacks are just as bad as the yellow. We don't want to beat the Japs and then lose the war to the blacks at home."

FOMENTED STRIKE

Just a few weeks ago during the Klan-inspired Packard strike, a union man held a telephone conversation with J. L. (Uncle Charley) Charles, veteran "caretaker" of the Forest Social Club. Uncle Charley unfortunately confused the union man with a Klan member. He named Charles Spare and Klansmen inside the plant who were fomenting the strike. His remarks ran like these excerpts:

"... never should have let the black alligator bait in there. . . Packard's a white man's plant and it's going to stay that way. . . . our boys are doing all right . . . we're going to have a real showdown this time."

JUN 27 1943

Many Truth Housing case of a year ago Mayor was elected. of the city police force the case in which a fascist element jobs in that and subse- fought to keep Negroes out of a quent periods. The "Black Legion" government housing development. tion of 1936 revealed ties Indicted for the seditious conspi- the "Black Legion" and racy to block U. S. laws and de- members of the force. prive Negroes of civil rights were avenue worth investigat- Parker Sage, founder of the Na- w of the police brutalities tional Workers League: Garland week? Alderman, secretary of the League, here was the Sojourner and Virgil Chatmon, executive vice-

A copy of this conversation is in the hands of City Prosecutor William E. Dowling.

Are the authorities so naive or blind as to believe that the Klansmen and the Packard

JUN 27 1943

Naval Arsenal strikes—would know nothing about one of the biggest organized anti-

THOMAS HITS FITH COLUMN

On the basis of it, President R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers declared:

"I am convinced that enemy agents are using this nightshirt Axis to do their work in the arsenal

Negro outbreaks in history? Is this a long history in view of Detroit. Back in 1929 it was so strong that the Klan-backed candi-

15 DEAD, 500 HURT IN DETROIT; CITY IS UNDER MARTIAL LAW, WITH RACE RIOTS CONTINUING

CURFEW IS IMPOSED

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

JUN 27 1943

Theatres Closed, Liquor Sales Banned as State Calls In Troops

BANDS ROAM THE STREETS

Stores Are Looted, Trolley Cars Stoned, Workers Beaten in Wild Outbreaks

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 21—Governor Harry F. Kelly imposed a modified form of martial law on three southeastern Michigan counties, comprising the Detroit metropolitan area, at 6 P. M. tonight in an effort to end the sporadic race rioting which has been sweeping the city since midnight Sunday and has caused the deaths of fifteen persons and injuries to an estimated 500 more.

JUN 22 1943

In addition, Governor Kelly ordered a curfew in the three counties, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb, effective 9 P. M. to last until 6 A. M. All persons were ordered to remain in their homes, except those on lawful errands and those going to and returning from work.

All motion picture house, theatres and other places of amusement were ordered closed until further orders, and the sale of all alcoholic beverages was indefinitely suspended.

Gatherings and assemblages were forbidden under a separate proclamation issued by Governor Kelly and all persons were banned from carrying firearms except the police and the military.

Governor Kelly was called to Detroit by Mayor Edward J. Jeffries shortly before noon when the Mayor Jeffries admitted the situation was out of hand. Governor Kelly was attending a conference of governors at Columbus, Ohio.

JUN 22 1943

Troops Ordered Mobilized

Before flying to Detroit in an army plane, Mr. Kelly telephoned Brig. Gen. LeRoy C. Pearson, State Adjutant General, in Lansing, ordering him to mobilize the 6,000 Michigan State troops. He also ordered Michigan State Police, to the number of 500 moved into Detroit.

Later in th afternoon, the State troops, except for those in the Upper Peninsula, were ordered to Detroit, and began arriving early this evening.

Governor Kelly and Mayor Jeffries conferred earlier with military officials, while no specific request was made for Federal troops, the military police battalion stationed here was put on the alert, and a second battalion was ordered in from Fort Custer.

These troops, it was stated, were not to be used unless further need arose. Brig. Gen. William E. Gunther, in charge of the military police for the Sixth Service Command, arrived from Chicago at 5 P. M., to take charge.

Auxiliary police were mobilized at noon to help out the regular police force of whom had been on duty since early this morning. It was estimated that all city and State police and State troops on duty in Detroit tonight numbered close to 6,000 men, with more due to arrive Tuesday.

The Governor's Proclamation

The text of Governor Kelly's proclamation was as follows:

"I, Harry F. Kelly, Governor of the State of Michigan and Commander in Chief of the military forces of the said State of Michigan, hereby declare a state of emergency and the [illegible]y for the armed forces of the State of Michigan to aid and assist, but in subordination thereto, all duly constituted civil authorities in the execution of the law of the State.

"The necessity for such aid and assistance is declared to extend to the following counties of the State of Michigan, namely: Wayne, Oakland and Macomb.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Michigan this twenty-first day of June, 1943.

Although Governor Kelly referred to his action as marital law, it was pointed out that it in no way interfered with the operations of the courts that civil law was not superseded and that the right to habeas corpus was not impaired.

With the Governor when the proclamation was framed were several Wayne County Circuit judges, including Presiding Judge Ira W. Jayne, and Prosecutor William E. Dowling and State and City officials.

JUN 22 1943

Governor, Mayor in Radio Pleas

At 6:30 o'clock both Governor Kelly and Mayor Jeffries went on the air with a plea for observance of the law and asking people to remain off the streets.

Most downtown Detroit stores were closed early this afternoon at Mayor Jeffries' request. Ordinarily Detroit stores remain open until 9 P. M. on Mondays.

Street car service was stopped in several section of hte city where the trouble was most acute.

The rioting was still going on at 8 P. M. when a crowd of more than 500 persons gathered in front of the City Hall and in front of the Post Office. Busses were stopped, trolleys were pulled off their wires and squads of police were rushed to the scene. Several persons were arrested before the crowd dispersed.

The dead included twelve Negroes and three white men. Among the Negroes was Mrs. Carrie Hackworth, 29, and one of the dead white men was Dr. Joseph De Horatius, who was beaten this morning by a group which overturned his car on one of the city's main roadways.

Several hundred women, mostly Negroes, were included in the list of injured.

Police had arrested 614 persons by P. M. Sunday, apparently with a brief Richard Park on the east and ion. All pawnshops and ammuni- with both stores were ordered to lock up fire- roaming arms.

The rioting began about 10:45 the first twenty hours of the fight between a Negro and a white rioting. They were charged with man on Belle Isle Bridge, when spread to the north side of the citing to riot, breaking and en- large crowds were leaving the ering, felonious assault and reck- island. ss driving. A woman had The fighting became general as een arrested. She was held at rumors spread through the excited cGraw Station on a charge of crowds and, as police and sailors sturbing the peace. from the near-by naval armory cleared the bridge, trouble began out on Belle Isle itself and in Ga-

JUN 27 1943

Police received reports in the

Fight of Two Men Starts Riot

JUN 9 1943

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elon Improvement Association, formed to keep Negroes out of Sojourner Truth.

AMERICA FIRST TIES

Alderman was secretary of the Oakland County Chapter of America First. At a Sojourner Truth meeting of March 6, 1942, he introduced Sage who said: "The English will be broken completely. There won't be a Kike left in the American nation a year after that. You wouldn't be bothered by lousy N. . . and the Hebe problem you have now."

"No, sir."

Although indicted, the three men are untried and free. Recently they testified before the City Housing Committee against Negroes occupying war housing.

Where were they when the anti-Negro riots were being planned and carried out?

If the Detroit officials who are unable to see any conspiracy behind the anti-Negro outbreaks will turn to the April-May, 1943, very respectable magazine called **The Protestant** they will find an article by Claude Williams, director of the People's Institute of Applied Religion. It is called "Hell-Brewers of Detroit." Among these "hell-brewers" whose brew was presented to the nation this week, Williams names:

"HELL-BREWERS"

The leaders of the Southern Society of Michigan, located at 633 Penobscot Building.

The society claims 14,000 "native-born, gentile, white sons of Dixie." Chairman is a certain Reverend T. B. Jones, described also as an "employe of City Police Department."

The heads of the Dixie Voters' League, working out of an attorney's office at 1214 Fayette Bldg.

Leaders of the Christian Business-men's Committee, some of whom are believed to have official ties with pro-Nazi organizations while others "are exploiting anti-Semitism, anti-Negro prejudice."

Rev. J. Frank Norris and backers of the Temple Baptist Church which recently "has been used to organize a Klan program."

Williams quotes a Baptist minister as saying "five of my church members have been invited to join the Klan within the last three weeks and Norris' name was used as endorsement." Norris has a long and unsavory record. He has been linked to Coughlin. In 1937 he started a "sink the CIO tour." He is an accomplished red-baiter. Like Gerald L. K. Smith, Norris is a voice of the late Huey Long.

Smith's America First Party ap-

JUN 27 1943

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pears to be the front political vehicle for all these anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, Coughlinite, Bundist and general fifth column groups.

He runs a huge, mysteriously-financed organization from the entire 20th floor of the Industrial Bank Bldg. The closeness between Smith and Father Coughlin is a matter of record.

IGNORANT, CONFUSED

These organized groups have a powerful tool in what Claude Williams describes as some 2,500 misinformed and ignorant "store-front and basement church preachers and lay exhorters." They work in various plants and preach at night. They come from the most backward areas of the South and other parts of the country, from which some 500,000 people have come to Detroit in search of work these past two years.

The preachers have audiences of from 25 to 300. They not only fail to clarify basic issues, but actually aggravate problems of racism, Klanism and general defeatism. Unwittingly in most cases, they have sharpened weapons which the fifth column used in Detroit this week.

You have seen a little of the fifth column background in the anti-war conspiracy that flared into the open last Thursday, bringing suffering to the Negro people, a serious drop in war production, disruption of morale. This is the fifth column which must be smashed by the federal government.

It is in this direction that authorities must look for the source of the conspiracy.

RACE RIOTS ARE DISCUSSED

New York Times

Mayor Sees Police Officers Who Visited Detroit Last Week

New York Herald Tribune

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine and two of his aides went to Detroit last week to survey conditions involved in the race riots there conferred with Mayor Fiorella H. La Guardia yesterday in City Hall. Neither the Mayor nor Mr. Valentine would discuss the meeting.

The two men sent to Detroit were Deputy Chief nspector Edward M. Butler, commanding the department's sixth division in Harlem, and acting Lieut. Emmanuel Kline, a Negro, of the same division. The officers went to Detroit on Tuesday and returned on Friday.

Courier Correspondent Gives Touching Account Of Human Suffering

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

JUL 3 1943

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Myrtle Estes Gaskill is a former Courier correspondent from Atlanta, Ga., and, more recently, has been connected with the Detroit edition. She returns to The Courier this week with a report of the Detroit riot as seen through a woman's eyes Mrs. Gaskill will continue with The Courier as Detroit's society editor.

By MYRTLE ESTES GASKILL

DETROIT, Mich., July 1—"Nights of horror, of cowering in one's hitherto comfortable and safe homes. Nights filled with the keening of bloodthirsty men—men gone mad for the moment with the rising tide of mass murder. Nights filled with the shrill screams of men brutally maimed and killed, and the harsh sounds of cruising trucks filled with hoodlums, bent on a reign of terror. That was Detroit last week!

Slim, brown boys, eyes wide with terror, running in crazy patterns from men whose faces, already white, have gone ashen with the lust for blood. Women, whose dark, limpid eyes are glazed with fear, stumbling frantically into doorways, clutching sobbing babies to breasts thudding with drum-beats of mounting hysteria . . . . that was Detroit last week!

THROUGH A WOMAN'S EYES

To a woman, these days and nights of sheer, rising frenzy were indescribable. There are no words to tell how it feels to crouch at a window and see beastly fury vent itself on a lone brown man, whose face is bleeding, whose eyes are swollen into puffy mounds of aching flesh, whose knees tremble and finally give—to send him prostrate under the triumphant feet of his tormentors.

There are no words to tell how it feels to stand by while young boys are herded like cattle into cars to be flung into jail; to realize that they will come out stamped with a police record; to know that there will be everlasting shame imprinted on the growing consciousness of racial inferiority.

The crescendo of police sirens will forevermore reign in one's memory as a concrete menace to peace.

HORRIBLE SYMPHONY

Mobs bore down on once proud homes, that housed families which meant something to the community . . . now a shambles, as desolate as any found near the battle fields. Tears, cries, bellows of rage and fear, blended in a horrible symphony . . . that was Detroit last week!

There is a certain strength in women which can and does carry them through tortures that would daunt a man. There is courage in the frail shell of a woman that never fails, that stands up and faces adversity with a smile, that reaches into the very heart of disaster and plucks out the thing that hurts most.

WOMEN OF DETROIT

But can we women of Detroit reach into this thing of horror that struck us last week and pluck out the white mob terrorism and face it? Can we close our eyes to the brutalities that have ruined the lives and families of so many, many colored men and women? We have stamina, but have we enough to survive and endure the sight of cars being turned and set fire? Neat, shiny cars that represented a certain comfortable mode of living, lying twisted and blackened on the road, while their owners lay covered with a sheet in the city morgue or lay moaning and unrecognizable on a narrow hospital cot.

The morgue, lined with still bodies—each representing a family unit taken away, link broken in the chain that had bound father and mother, sister and brother into one tie, was a gruesome spectacle.

I shudder, remembering. I weep bitter tears, bringing back grim pictures of the "master race" battering against yielding black flesh. And I try to forget so that I can go on living in a world where war is not just across the ocean, but right here in our front yards.

DETROIT STRIKES TO BAR NEGROES LOST 3,000,000 HOURS IN 3 MONTHS

JUL 29 1943

Detroit, Mich.—Strikes in this area to prevent employment and upgrading of Negro workers have cost the war effort nearly 3 million man hours, the U. S. Department of Labor revealed this week.

In a report, supplied at the request of the NAACP, the Department of Labor, stated that between the three-month period of March 1 through May 31, 101,955 man days of work in U. S. war plants had been lost to the enemy because of racial bigotry. The Department of Labor lists protests against the upgrading if Negro workers as the chief reason for these strikes.

Bystander

Other reasons recorded are: hiring of colored workers and demand for separate sanitary facilities; placing of Negroes in production department; hiring of Negro plant guards; and refusal to work with Negro toolmakers.

The War Production Board estimates that an additional one million man-hours were lost by the Detroit riot.

Des Moines, Iowa

In another stoppage during the same period at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company in Mobile, 22,4[illegible] man days or 536,208 man hours were lost in a strike and riot against the upgrading of colored workers to welders.

JUL 2 1943

Best Editorial of the Week

The Plaindealer

AUG 6 1943

THE ISSUE

In his recent caustic branding of the so-called "Yellow" Negro press and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as instigators of the recent Detroit riots and [illegible]si violent opposition to a grand jury investigation because "Negroes would suffer most," Prosecutor William E. Dowling shows plainly that he is dodging the issue. Is Prosecutor Dowling so interested in the welfare of Negro citizens that he seeks to protect from punishment those of the race whom he declares are guilty of having precipitated the riot? He insists that a grand jury investigation is not needed because of insufficient evidence, yet the next breath he charges that the NAACP would be among the first to be [illegible] if a grand jury were convened.

Has Mr. Dowling evidence to prove this assertion? If so, why has it been withheld? Why was not this evidence used following the Sojourner Truth riot in April of 1942, when FBI agents were making investigations which brought about the indictment of several white citizens accused of fomenting the riot?

The assertion that the riot of June 20 and 21 was started by a group of Negro youth who sought vengeance for attacks made upon them by white youths at Eastwood Park a few weeks before is an unconvincing argument.

Everybody knows that the incidents which led up to the recent bloody riot began months ago in a series of [illegible]dist[illegible]ces and outbursts of race hatred which were not unknown to local law enforcement officers. Attention was called to the menacing conditions by the Negro press, the NAACP and individual public-spirited citizens who were eager to avert the threatened conflict, but those in authority ignored the approaching danger.

AUG 6 1943

Prosecutor Dowling accuses the Negro press of being yellow. Upon what does he base this accusation? It is a crime for Negro newspapers to point out injustices, discrimination and intolerance suffered by the people they serve? Is it in the general [illegible] to bring such conditions to public attention as a means of arousing wholesome sentiment against these evils? Our papers are accused of agitating and stirring up racial animosity, in order to build circulation, but the Prosecutor apparently fails to recognize the fact that there is a vast difference between malicious agitation on the one hand and exposing conditions of unjust racial discrimination and persecution with which so many of our people are confronted. If the Negro press does not lift its voice against the ills inflicted upon Negro people who will? Certainly, we cannot look to newspapers of other racial groups to defend us from injustice.

Kansas City, Kan.

AUG 6 1943

If exposure because Negro people against injustice is yellow, then may the Detroit Tribune always be "yellow," and to paraphrase the words of a great patriot, "may our right hand forget its cunning and our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth," if the Tribune ever ceases journalism, as Prosecutor Dowling man rights.

The Negro does not fear prosecution. When we are guilty, punish us, but for God's sake, do not persecute us.

Negroes are not the only citizesn who are urging that the riot be investigated by a grand jury. Many prominent white citizens join us in this request. We do not fear the consequences and certainly our public officials should not. The issue should not be dodged or evaded. It is a vital issue which deeply concerns all the citizens of Detroit, of all races, creeds and classes. The riot was not spontaneous and we are convinced that a grand jury investigation will prove it.—Detroit Tribune.

AUG 6 1943

DETROIT'S LEADERSHIP IS CHANGING HANDS AS RESULT OF RIOT

The Plaindealer, Kansas City Kan.

By JOHN T. WOOD

AUG 13 1943

Detroit, Aug. 13 (ANP)—The formation of a number of organizations since the terrible riot of June 21, the programs they have already put into effect and the composition of these groups indicate that the Negro leadership in Detroit is shifting from the "professional" [illegible]ver to organized labor and other progressive forces whose records of achievement in race relations have caught the fancy of the rank and file worker.

And this is not surprising because the colored population of this city is 99 per cent working class with a one per cent professional class. It is significant to note that the rank and file Negro has, in recent weeks, openly declared that there is need of a change of leadership from the professional leader to those more experienced in leading both Negroes and whites, and that only in organized labor can this new leader be found.

Obviously this means finis for a number of "paper" or "name" organizations whose programs have been of little or no importance, and the birth of an all out program of cooperation with the labor movement with which the destiny of the rank and file Negro is definitely tied up. It means that the rank and file has suddenly awakened to the realization that mere protest on the part of and/or in behalf of minority groups, is not enough. It means that the rank and file Negro has become convinced that the solution to many of the vexing problems with which he is faced can best be found in a day-by-day program of worker-to-worker education. Negroes learned this lesson the hard way, for it was this same method that was used to promote "hate strikes" and other anti-Negro demonstrations that preceded the race riot.

Two recently formed organizations, their programs and how they have been put into effect are examples of this new school of thought. The Workers Council for Community Development, composed of approximately 25 members of organized labor groups, both CIO and AFL, has already reported success of its program of visual education and worker-to-worker propaganda to erase the stigma of the race riot. Moving pictures depicting the axis method of breaking down the morale of the people by stirring up racial hatreds have been shown on out-of-doors screens in known tension areas of mixed pattern. Movies showing the contributions of the Negro people to the war effort and the contributions both races have made by working together for one common cause have been most effective in preventing minor racial clashes at a time when many Negroes and whites are still carrying chips on their shoulders.

Another phase of the council's program—the worker-to-worker propaganda campaign—has also been effective. Just as fomenters of racial hatreds carried on personalized campaigns to poison whites against Negroes, and vice versa, and just as they distributed anti-Negro and anti-Jewish literature among workers by sticking such literature in machines, or from hand to hand, so is the council, using this same method, winning many whites and Negroes over to their program of better race relations. This program has met with an encouraging degree of success and there are indications that it

AUG 13 1943

will become even more successful, for it is the common working man, both white and colored, who ultimately bears the brunt of racial clashes.

And the consensus is that no group is better fitted to promote this program of better race relations than those men trained for that specific purpose by and for organized labor. That they know how to reach both Negro and white groups can be seen in reports that in not a single defense plant during the recent race riot were there even minor clashes between Negro and white workers.

Anothe r important phase of the council's program is the block-to-block, house-to-house canvass of tension areas to reach the people who do not come in daily contact with the program. The scope of this phase not only covers interracial education, but also stresses the importance of the ballot to the Negro people whose future progress depends largely upon the removal from office of certain public officials and the election to office of men whose liberal views have stood the acid test.

The Urban League associates, another new organization for community development, indicates that the Urban league has seen the handwriting on the wall—that it can no longer remain a static organization if it is to serve the best interests of Negroes, but must in some way tie its program in with the programs of organized labor.

This group, too, is composed of union leaders, factory workers and labor relations men, many of whom are veterans in the field of interracial education of the masses. Its program is similar to that of the Workers Council, and it is significant to note that neither group is headed by "name" people who have heretofore assumed eadership of the masses.

Add to these two groups severa simiar organizations, incuding a number of youth organizations, all moving in the same direction and all following the trend towards labor leadership and you have a picture of the revolutionary change that is taking place in the over all leadership of Detroit.

The difference between the new leadership and the old is that the new leaders have recruited a number of workers who realize that the job to be done here can only be accomplished through hard work, whereas the old leadership was supported primarily by "name" people of paper organizations. There has been no clamor for the renunciation of the old leadership, for it is believed that the successful work of the new group which has begun to function without fanfare, will automatically cause the "name" leaders of "paper" organizations to step down. As one worker said the other day, "This looks like a new deal for the Negro in Detroit."

NAACP PUSHES FOR FEDERAL ACTION AGAINST RIOTERS

DETROIT, July 31.—Complied with rising condemnation of the Detroit Mayor's "white paper," absolving the police force, the NAACP this week renewed its effort to get Federal action taken against rioting.

In a memorandum to the White House on June 29, concerning the causes and results of the riots throughout the nation, the association tersely outlined the causes of these outbreaks and made 13 recommendations for the alleviation of racial strife in the 17 or more fever spots in the United States, where rioting is likely to break out at any moment.

WANT FDR TO TALK

The suggestions, which were specific, in respect to the Detroit situation, were also applicable to the country at large, the NAACP said. They included:

The urging by the NAACP once again, as it has repeatedly urged for the past two years, of a fireside chat appealing to the people of the country to refrain from rioting, pointing out the global nature of the problem of race, and the utitlization by our enemies of reports of rioting.

2. Retention of Federal troops in Detroit.

3. Investigation by a Federal Grand Jury of the city police department.

4 and 5. Federal Grand Jury investigations of the Mayor of Detroit and the Michigan State police.

6. An investigation of reports that workers in certain Detroit war plants several weeks ago began to make daggers and other weapons out of tool steel.

WANT PROTECTION FOR SOLDIERS

7. The introduction and passage of legislation to make violence against members of the armed forces and violence to prevent minority groups from performing war work, a federal offense.

8. It was asked too, that Navy department orders regarding the conduct of sailors at the Belle Isle training station be enforced, and that an investigation of these sailors' participation in the riots be made.

The release by the Federal Government of building material for the construction of houses for workers in defense areas was also urged.

Finally, the NAACP charged, that the failure of the War Manpower Commission to prohibit recruitment of workers elsewhere before all available local labor had been utilized resulted in an enormous and increasing strain on housing facilities in Detroit and led to, in part, the creation of conditions culminating in rioting.

WOULD WEED OUT KLAN MEMBERS

The NAACP told the President that it was gratified by the report that the Department of Justice has summoned all United States attorneys to meet in Philadelphia last week to discuss the obligation and duty of each of them to preserve civil rights of American citizens. The NAACP suggested that the federal government, through the Department of Justice, weed out from federal, city and state police forces, all members of the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazi Bund and the Black Legion or any other anti-minority and anti-American organization.

Vigorous support of FEPC was asked of the President and greater use of the radio, press and moving pictures by the OWI in the dissemination of information that will create a better understanding between whites and Negroes.

The NAACP expressed amazement at the silence of the President, who, as far as printed stories reveal, did not mention the riot during his press conference last week. The most charitable explanation of the President's behavior, the NAACP said, is that he was waiting until he had gotten this appropriation bill through the Southern anti-New Deal and Republican bloc in view of the needs of OWI, FSA, NYA and other similar agencies.

RIOT PICTURES ANSWER TO JEFFRIES

The full answer to Mayor Jeffries' efforts to absolve completely the Detroit police force in a "white paper," the NAACP declared, are to be found in the more than 100 action pictures it has on file that were taken by newsmen during the height of the riot. Among these pictures of whites maiming helpless and hopelessly outnumbered Negroes, is the now famous shot of a Negro on Woodward avenue surrounded by a crowd of civilians and mounted police and supposedly in the custody of two policemen, who grip his arms while a white assailant strikes him full in the face. Another is a picture of a cowering fear-stricken Negro on whom several white police are closing in.

The NAACP again asked, why Jeffries and Police Commissioner Witherspoon could not make arrests out of the nearly 1,000 white rioters, whose faces are clearly identifiable in these pictures, and who could be easily apprehended by even a mediocre detective. In picture after picture, white men are shown maiming, killing and destroying the property of lone Negroes.

Lawyers Guild Blasts Detroit DA on Race Bias

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Sept. 19. — After a careful survey of all the available facts, the Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild roundly denounced the conclusions in the report made by the County Attorney Dowling to Governor Kelly charging that it "reeks of an implied assumption of 'white supremacy' and arrogant resentment at Negroes."

It further charges that the report "totally ignores the existence of the Ku Klux Klan, the National Workers League and a score of other fascist and Nazi organizations which are known to have operated extensively in this area for years past in the daily dissemination of the vilest of anti-Negro propaganda."

The report which was unanimously passed by the members blasted the whitewash of the Detroit and Michigan State police departments asserting that the heads of those two departments seemed concerned with clearing themselves of all responsibility for the death of 35 victims of the rioting and for failing to handle the situation adequately.

Comp[illegible] exposed [illegible] the allegation used to put the blame on the Negroes and their organizations and press that the percentage of crimes committed by Negroes was greatly out of proportion to the total Negro population.

Detroit's Disgrace

Daily Worker

IT IS a cowardly aspersion which the prosecuting and police officials of Detroit have cast at the Negro people. It is more than that; it is of serious help to the fifth column enemy within our borders.

New York, N.

Prosecutor Dowling and Police Commissioner Witherspoon have clutched desperately at some straw of an excuse to explain away their failure to act vigorously and unpatriotically against the recent anti-Negro insurrection. They have now hit upon the cheap device of putting the blame on the victims of this outrage, the Negro people who have been maimed and tortured and killed by the fifth column hoodlums.

This is so false as to amaze and anger all decent Americans. It covers up the Klan and other Hitlerite agencies operating in the Detroit area and who are responsible for these outbreaks. Both Dowling and Witherspoon are serving in effect as front men for these seditious outfits and display an attitude which unfits them for public service.

In Detroit itself the labor movement has insisted upon a grand jury investigation of a complete and sweeping character. That insistence certainly should grow in volume. President R. J. Thomas of the United Automobile Workers has challenged the misconduct of local authorities by stating that he has positive proof that the outrages were the work of the Klan. He is right in emphasizing further that Dowling's words are an incitation to added violence against the Negroes in Detroit and in other parts of the country.

This is not a matter for Detroit alone. It is of concern to the whole nation. The people everywhere, and particularly the trade unions, can urge upon the federal government that it step into Detroit and clean out the rats' nest of fifth columnists which is harming production in that arms center.

Detroit Officials Have Lesson; Can Prevent Future Race Riots

Afro-American - Baltimore, Md.

By LEVI JOLLEY

(Editor, Philadelphia AFRO)

DETROIT, Mich. — Although there are five definite conditions that contributed to the cause for the recent race riots here, blame for any future outbreaks can be placed directly upon the city officials and members of the police department.

After a hurried trip, by plane, from Philadelphia to Cleveland, deaths and injuries, and than to question persons in all walks of life as to the cause of the disaster.

Summed up briefly, the factors most frequently mentioned were:

Dixie Influence Felt

Resentment of Southern whites to the hiring and upgrading of skilled colored workmen; their objection to the mixing of white and colored children in schools, theatres, etc;

Opposition of colored citizens to efforts of these whites to spread segregation practices; resentment to gestapo police tactics and Ku Klux Klan influence.

It appears that many white race superior, resent the fact that skilled colored men are their foremen or superiors at industrial plants and also that scores of colored workers are employed in assembly lines with them receiving the same pay for the same work.

Detroit "Too Liberal"

These whites, principally from small Dixie communities, resent the fact that white and colored children go to the same schools, frequent the same movies and enjoy the same privileges as their own.

Thrown in close contact with other citizens, they have refused to respect a man's ability but can think of his color.

On the other hand, colored citizens, conscious of their hard-won rights, resent and oppose efforts to create segregated schools, and efforts to bar them from promotions in industrial plants because of their color.

Police Abuse Authority

Colored citizes are definite in their complaints against the growing tide of race prejudice caused by the waves of white workers from the South.

To this now has been added resentment against the police who were responsible for the deaths of twenty-two of the twenty-seven colored persons slain in the riot.

A four-man, all-white fact-finding committee appointed by Governor Harry F. Kelly reported that it found no evidence of subversive influence and that a grand jury investigation was not necessary.

Evident to Others

This report was made in the face of evidence by investigators that an executive of the Michigan branch of the Ku Klux Klan, heading a social club known as "The Forest Social Club," left the city hurriedly when soldiers took over and despite other evidence that older men were seen on a vacant lot instructing teenage boys and furnishing them with pre-prepared clubs.

Police Are Commended

These clubs, made in the form of baseball bats with tapered ends, mysteriously appeared at various points during the riot. Curiously these weapons were there by the scores for these white youth to club innocent colored persons in groups of 100 to 300.

The four-man committee in its report commended all Detroit police and Government agencies for their part in halting the rioting.

The high point of the committee's report, one which was bitterly resented, was the statement that neithor a city nor Federal grand jury investigation would be necessary.

The Committee Members

This all-white committee consisted of John Witherspoon, chief of Detroit police; William E. Dowling, city prosecutor; Herbert J. Rushton, State Attorney General, and Oscar Olanderm, State Police Superintendent.

The city has constantly refused to appoint colored men to the police department in proportion to the population.

There are now forty-three colored police, including two sergeants and one lieutenant who is assigned to the plain clothes division. Also in the group are ten detectives, three policewomen and twenty-five patrolmen.

RIOT PROBE URGED BY DETROIT MAYOR

Atlanta, Georgia

Daily World

DETROIT, Mich — (SNS) — Mayor Edward Jeffries' decision on July 30, to come out for a grand jury investigation was regarded this week by the NAACP as the first hopeful gesture to be made by city officials in connection with the June 20-22 riots here.

The NAACP's July 30 telegram to the Mayor said:

"We note with pleasure that you have come out for a grand jury investigation of the Detroit riot. We express our appreciation. May we make the further suggestion that you lend the full weight of your office to the proposal made by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers - CIO, that a special prosecutor from outside of Detroit and possibly outside of Michigan be selected. May we add further suggestion that he be of such eminent stature and unimpeachable character that no person can suspect or accuse him of yielding to pressure of any sort. We further suggest that the Civil Rights Committee of the American Bar Association and the National Lawyers Guild be asked to select this prosecutor. Finally, we urge you to insist that Prosecutor William E. Dowling recuse himself in any grand jury proceedings since the intemperance of his recent statements have brought into grave question his impartiality and fairness."

In the face of Dowling's refusal to call a grand jury on the June rioting and his counterblast blaming the NAACP and Negro press for riot instigation, the NAACP had presented on July 28 its report on the riot to Mayor Jeffries and demanded that the Mayor order a grand jury.

The prosecutor's refusal was made early last week and the charge against the NAACP's was delivered Monday, July 26, before a sub-committee of the Mayor's Interracial Committee.

Tenseness of the city was evident when Walter White, accompanied by a delegation, went to City Hall to present to Mayor Jeffries the NAACP statement of charges of acts by the Detroit police and others. With White were L. C. Blount, of Great Lakes Insurance Company, and member of NAACP national board, Gloster Current, Detroit NAACP executive secretary, and Father Malcolm Dade, pastor of St. Cyprian church.

The report is the result of an investigation by White who had flown to Detroit at the peak of the riots and of Thurgood Marshall, NAACP attorney, who spent several weeks here following the outbreak.

Recalling the police handling of the Sojourner Truth disturbances as "typical of the one-sided law enforcement practiced by Detroit police," the NAACP report to the Mayor stated that "white hoodlums were justified in their belief that the Detroit police would act the same way in any future disturbances."

Throughout the report, the NAACP offers evidence gathered by its own staff of investigators to support its charge that Detroit police "enforced the law under an unequal hand."

"They used 'persuasion' rather than firm action with white rioters, while against Negroes they used the ultimate in force — night sticks, revolvers, riot guns, submachine guns and deer rifles," the NAACP charged.

"As a result, 25 of the 34 persons killed were Negroes. Of the 25 Negroes killed, 17 were killed by police. The excuses of the Police Department for the disproportionate number of Negroes killed is that the majority of them were killed while committing felonies; namely, the looting of stores on Hastings street.

"On the other hand, the crimes of arson and felonious assault also are felonies. It is true that some Negroes were looting stores on Hastings Street and were shot while committing these crimes.

"It is equally true that white persons were turning over and burning automobiles on Woodward Avenue. This is arson. Others were beating Negroes with iron pipes, clubs and rocks. This is felonious assault. Several Negroes were stabbed. This is assault with intent to murder.

"All of these crimes are matters of record; many of them were committed in the presence of police officers, several on the pavement around City Hall. Yet, the record remains: Negroes killed by police 17; white persons killed by police, 0. Eighty-five per cent of the persons arrested were Negroes," the report stated.

The NAACP then reviews the events of late June 20 and early June 21, recounting the rumors which spread throughout the city of violence on and near the Belle Isle Bridge.

The report agrees in these respects with the official police reports.

FBI Rounds Up Spy Ring After Lengthy Probe

U. S. Grand Jury Investigation Of Riots Demanded

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

By JOHN T. WOOD

DETROIT — (ANP) — A growing chain of evidence linking axis agents to the June 20-21 race riots began this week to tighten against "stooge" associates of a spy ring rounded up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the Detroit Citizens Committee and the 57th Annual Michigan Conference of A. M. E. churches joined the Civil Rights Federation in demanding a Federal grand jury investigation of the causes of the recent riot and the immediate prosecution of three white men indicted for sedition in the Sojourner Truth riot of February 28, 1942.

A direct link between the recently arrested Nazi agents and instigators of the Sojourner Truth riot and the June 20-21 incident, was bared last week when the FBI disclosed that Dr. Fred W. Thomas, one of several held here as spies, was a member of, and a heavy contributor to the National Workers' League which has been exposed as a subversive organization.

LINKED TO RIOT

FBI reports also revealed that Dr. Thomas was an active member of the Seven-Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association, whose president, Joseph Buffa, led the fight against Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth homes and warned the City Council that whites would

21 riot.

PROTECTED SUSPECTS

The Federation petition also charged that the Dies committee which sought credit for linking the seditionists to the spy ring, actually protected the three men from prosecution. A similar charge was levelled at Prosecutor John C. Lehr.

The resolution adopted by the A. M. E. Conference, with Bishop John A. Gregg presiding, charged that placing the blame for the riot on the Negro people only "makes possible the recurfence of such incidents" and asked for a complete investigation so that Detroit citizens can "get on with the business of winning the war and living in peace."

Both the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Civil Rights Federation condemned Martin Dies and his Committee on Un-American Activities for attempting to take credit for the expose of the link between the Dies and the indicted seditionists.

FBI HEAD RAPS DIES

In a terort to Dies, John S. Burras, head of the FBI office here, said "the Dies Committee has not been interested in the case and hasn't given two cents worth of assistance."

The Civil Rights Federation charged that Dies, who claims to have confiscated 500 names of alleged axis sympathisers in a raid of Sages' office two years ago, could have investigated a possible tie-up between this group and the June 20-21 riot, but that Dies, instead, "threatened to come to Detroit to investigate Japanese activities among Negroes."

"It is singularly strange that Dies, who now reveals that he knew of the link between Sage, the National Workers' League and Dr. Thomas, as far back as January, 1942, makes public his material 20 months later, when the work of the FBI makes it dangerous for Dies longer to conceal it . . . the conclusion that Dies was shielding and protecting enemy agents is inescapable."

HEAVY CONTRIBUTOR

Dr. Thomas, according to the FBI reports, not only was a member of the National Workers' League, but was one of its heaviest contributors. It was disclosed that Dr. Thomas issued checks to many of his "patients" who afterward turned the money over to the league.

The money was used to disseminate anti-Negro and anti-Jewish literature in Detroit and pay for meeting halls where National Workers' League members planned the Sojourner Truth riot and laid the groundwork for the June 20-21 riot.

Prior to the Sojourner Truth riot the Civil Rights Federation and Negro [illegible] exposed the [illegible] activities of the National Workers' League and it was this expose that led to the indictment of Sage, Chandler and Alderman.

Following the indictment, known members of the league, working in close cooperation with the Ku Klux Klan elements, promoted a series of "hate strikes" in defense plants here. The same group was responsible for outbreaks between Negro and white students at the Ferndale school and last spring led a mob stoning the homes of Negroes on Central Avenue on Detroit's west side.

Reports on these incidents link members of the National Workers' League with each outbreak, and because of heavy contributions to the league by members of the recently arrested spy ring, it is believed that axis agents were directly responsible for the June 20-21 riot.

BACK OF DETROIT'S RIOTS

Christian Recorder

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is trying to find out who instigated the Detroit race riots. The [illegible] would like to know. It is incredible that a minor fist fight on a bridge should, without organization and leadership, develop into mass rioting, with the loss of 29 lives, the injury of 600 persons and the damage of buildings throughout a vast metropolitan area. Philadelphia,

There is a natural impulse to blame Nazi elements for instigating racial conflict to injure war production and to discredit with other nations our qualications for international leadership. Whether the Nazis were responsible or not, their cause was well served. Their propagandists can tell the people of conquered countries to glance at America and answer for themselves whether our vaunted interest in their welfare is of a quality to be taken seriously. The enemy will sneeringly charge that we cannot keep our own house in order. Pa.

But long before the Nazis, we had violent expressions of racial intolerance. The Ku Klux Klan of 1930's was a purely native phenomenon. If it or similar organizations are now capitalizing on the social complexities of wartime to renew their sinister crusades, the time to expose them is now. It would be a hideous mockery if the war to defeat Hitlerism brought to America a revival of the hooded night rider.

—St. Louis Star-Times.

DOWLING BLAMES RACE MAN IN RIOT

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 5—In a "smoke screen" attempt to discourage a grand jury probe of the June 20-21 race riots, which, if carried on, probably would reveal gross laxity of law-enforcement authorities, Wayne County Prosecutor William B. Dowling last week placed blame for the mob outbreaks on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and on the Negro press. Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon supported the Dowling charges.

So airtight, however, were the answers to those charges of the NAACP and the Detroit Negro press that, since that time, Dowling has come out and named a defenseless Negro, Leo Tipton, now under arrest, as one of the chief instigators of the riots. Dowling alleges that Tipton sent 500 persons from a colored social club to Belle Isle to start the rioting.

BLASTS NAACP

Rapping the NAACP, through its Detroit branch, Dowling said: "That association has been fomenting trouble in Negro neighborhoods here from the start. You have no confidence in your law-enforcement agencies and turn your information over to a trouble-making organization like that. They sent in their folks to start trouble in the Sojourner Truth situation and then protected them when we tried to bring the folks to justice. If a grand jury is called in, the NAACP will be named in the first indictment."

Taking a stab at the colored press, Dowling asserted: "The Negro press has deliberately stirred up dissension for the sole purpose of selling their nasty yellow papers."

QUICK, BITTER DENUNCIATIONS

Both Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, national organization, and Dr. James J. McClendon, president of the Detroit NAACP, filed prompt and militant answers to the prosecutor's charges, which, like the charges, were given considerable attention in the local metropolitan dailies. They challenged Dowling and Witherspoon to prove the charges made.

"Prosecutor Dowling's intemperate outburst," wrote Walter White, in part, "revealed one of the reasons for the Detroit race riot. It was the miserable failure of law-enforcement officials to do their jobs, and, then, they attempted to excuse their dereliction by blaming trouble on those who, for years, have pleaded that laws be enforced."

"If the NAACP was the instigator of the recent race riot," asked Dr. McClendon, "why wait for a grand jury to indict us? It appears as though the prosecutor is trying to find a scapegoat."

EDITORS FLAY DOWLING'S FALSE CHARGES

Louis E. Martin, editor of the Michigan Chronicle; James E. McCall, editor of the Detroit Tribune, and John R. Williams, editor of the Detroit edition of The Pittsburgh Courier, joinly answered Dowling's attack on the Negro press. They responded, in part:

"For more than 100 years, the Negro press has fought unceasingly against the injustices perpetrated against Negro people. All minority groups in this country have their own press because of the failure to secure adequate representation in the metropolitan daily newspapers. One of the foundations of our democratic system is freedom of the press.

"The Negro press does not stir up racial prejudice as charged by Dowling, but it seeks to expose intolerance and discrimination for the public good. Racial prejudice is a disease which is detrimental to democracy. All Americans fighting for a true democracy recognize the threat of racism to our nation and to our war effort. The Detroit Tribune, the Michigan Chronicle and The Pittsburgh Courier have repeatedly warned in the last few months of the growing strife between the races in this community. All three of these papers asked for investigations of racial tension in this area long before June 20 and 21."

OTHER DENUNCIATIONS MADE TO DOWLING

The Committee Against Racial Discrimination, headed by Pearl S. Buck, and 10 other national organizations, have charged Detroit police with lawlessness and condemned Prosecutor Dowling's refusal to convene a grand jury to investigate the recent race riots. These groups have wired Atty. Gen. Biddle in Washington, D.C., urging an immediate federal grand jury investigation.

Though he has expressed little faith in what a grand jury probe of the race riots would unearth, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries of Detroit has finally added his voice to thousands of others which have repeatedly asked for such an investigation. However, the mayor's suggestion failed to win immediate approval of the city council, George Edwards, a Laborite, moving that the council join in a petition to the Circuit Court for creation of a one-man special investigation body. A majority of the council favored delay of action until Prosecutor Dowling has made a public report on both the recent riots and on his views concerning a grand jury investigation.

WHITE YOUTHS HELD FOR SLAYING

Though Dowling now blames Tipton, a Negro, for playing the major role in starting the riots, four white youths are now being held by police for the murder of Moses Kiska, 58-year-old Negro, shot down in the June 21 riot while waiting for a trolley.

The quartet—Aldo Trani, 16; Armendo Mustantuano, 20, owner of the rifle; Robert Cattone, 17, and Anthony Saraceno, 18—are alleged to have made confessions now in the hands of Dowling, whom they repeatedly told they had the rifle and wanted "to hove some fun."

BLAMES TIPTON FOR BELLE ISLE TENSION

Dowling, in holding Tipton as a "key figure" in the causing of the riots, said Tipton seized a public address microphone at a gathering of 500 Negroes late the evening of June 20 and shouted:

"Everybody come on, there is a riot at Belle Isle and they have killed a colored lady and her baby."

Tipton, the prosecutor said, would be charged with inciting to riot, because spreading of the false rumor caused the riot to spread to such proportions that 34 persons lost their lives because of it. The Kiska slaying had hitherto been listed as one of 16 riot deaths unsolved. Twenty-five of the roit victims were Negroes.

TWO MORE RIOTERS DRAW SENTENCES

Recorder's Judge John P. Scallen last week sentenced two other participants in the June 21 Detroit riot, J. C. Gann, 22 and white, found guilty by a jury a week previously of unlawfully unwheeling a tire from an upturned car at Woodward and Charlotte, and David Hamilton, 23 and colored, of 1519 Chene street, found guilty by a jury last week of carrying an ice pick with unlawful intent at E. Jefferson and Lycaste the day of the riot.

Gann was given from six months to five years in prison. Hamilton was meted out a sentence of from four months to five years.

Investigation Shows Newcomers Not in Race Riot

Tribune

Washington, D. C.

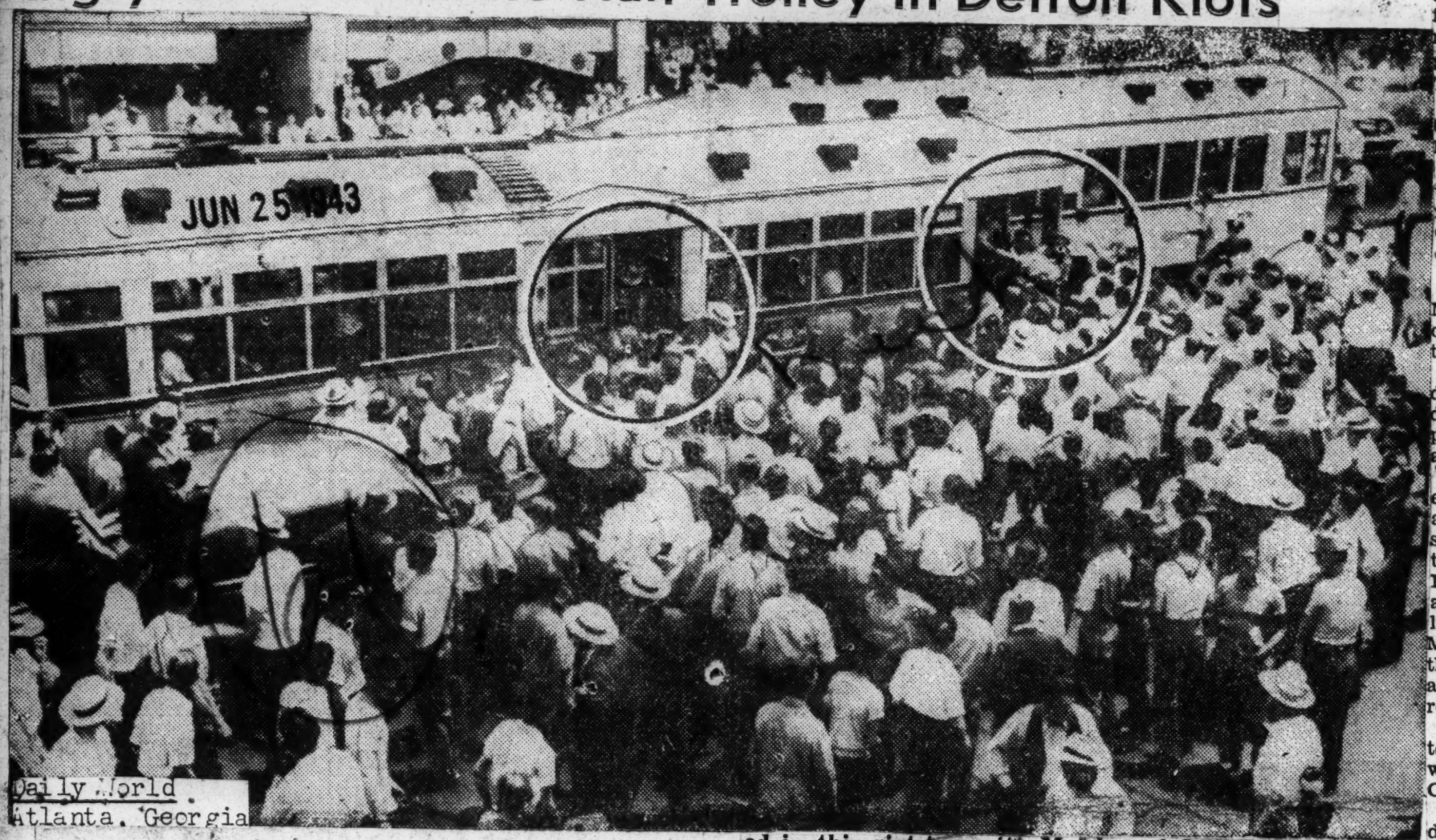
DETROIT.—Dr. C. F. Ramsay, director of the Michigan Department of Social Welfare, said he and a staff of volunteer assistants had questioned nearly 500 persons arrested during the riots and that a majority of those interviewed had lived in Detroit for more than five years.

The investigation by the sociologist,, appointed by the Michigan Governor to conduct the survey, concluded that the large

[illegible] backgrounds the causes [illegible] outbreaks of violence [illegible] to solution or mitigation [illegible] such trouble in the future.

25 were reported to be Negroes, [illegible] for such outbreaks was almost [illegible] no factor" in [illegible] Detroit since last Monday week. The midnight curfew lid re[illegible] last week, that swept Detroit rose to 34 [illegible] mained tightly clamped on the [illegible] Dr. Ramsay and his staff [illegible] city for the week-end by Federal [illegible] sought in mental, physical and [illegible] white persons and Negroes. [illegible] troops who have been on duty in [illegible] The total number of deaths re[illegible] sulting from the 24 hours of riot[illegible]

Angry Demonstrators Halt Trolley In Detroit Riots



AN EXCITED, MILLING MOB stops a trolley car in downtown Detroit during the riots that have resulted in at least 28 deaths and brought the list of injured to more than 700. A Negro is being hit on the head with a club as he leaves from the front door of the car while a woman emerges fearfully from the center. Federal troops are now patrolling the city's streets. — (International Soundphoto)

Multiple Police Forces On Duty

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

BULLETIN

Acting on orders of President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson late Monday night directed Major General Oran, of the Sixth Service Command, to take Federal troops into Detroit to aid in quelling the race riots. Around eleven o'clock p. m. Monday, the first of more than a score of Army trucks bearing mounted guns and grim troops rolled into Cadillac Square.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked President Roosevelt to broadcast to the nation and Detroit asking an end of racial rioting.

JUN 22 1943

DETROIT —(SNS)— Military rule was established in this riot-torn city Monday night as 2000 federal troops moved in with the attempt by authorities to quiet the situation. Latest reports said that at least 23 persons were dead and several hundreds injured as result of the disturbances.

DETRIOT, Mich.—(SNS)—Six Negroes and two white persons were dead Monday, result of race riots here Sunday More than 200 persons were injured.

A widespread report that a colored woman and child were slain on Belle Isle. recreational and swimming spot in the Detroit River, was believed one of the causes of the riots.

JUN 22 1943

Police said groups of white and colored persons milled about on street corners in a wide section bordering and northeast of downtown Detroit, hurling stones and bricks at passing automobiles bearing member of both races Many automobiles were overturned and officers said all windows on Hastings Street, prominent Negro section, were broken for a distance of 25 blocks.

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Thirteen of the elementary schools were closed Monday morning after Deputy Superintendent of Schools Herman J. Browe reported thousands of pupils either were kept at home by frightened parents or were taken home after word of the rioting spread.

Two streetcar lines were at a standstill after operators refused to carry the vehicles through certain districts for fear of violence.

Police officials closed all dance halls and all-night theatres. All saloons in Detroit and the Hamtramck suburb were ordered closed. Pawnshop and hardware store operators were directed to remove from windows and shelves all stocks of guns, ammunition and knives and to lock them in safes.

JUN 22 1943

The Ford Motor Company reported hundreds of colored workers had asked to leave work for the day because they had received calls from their homes saying them were needed.

STATE POLICE ORDERED TO DUTY

JUN 22 1943

Michigan State Police and state troops were ordered to Detroit Monday to restore order.

Captain Doland S. Leonard, of the Michigan State Police, announced before noon Monday that Governor Harry Kelly had ordered mobilization of the state forces.

Rioting continued to spread Monday despite the mobilization of the entire 3,500 members of the police force of the city.

Hospitals were crowded Sunday night and Monday with hundreds of riot victims. By noon, police said more than 300 had been arrested.

Captain Leonard said the Governor, had directed mobilization, at two Detroit armories, of 1,000 state troops picked from the best-trained companies in the state. In addition, he said, between 400 and 500 membess of the state police force, including those in Michigan's upper peninsula, more than 300 miles from Detroit, were already mobilized and standing ready for action if needed.

Governor Kelly arranged to fly to Detroit from Columbus, Ohio, where he had gone for the Annual Governor's Conference.

He said at Columbus, "I am not declaring martial law. I am trying to hold the situation without that."

"We've got to stop this today if we're ever going to," the Governor said.

LEADERS APPEAL TO DEMONSTRATION

Two Negro leaders, the Rev Horace White, of Plymouth Congregational Church, and Otis Saunders, of the Double-V Committee, a Negro organization, reported to Mayor Edward J. Jeffries they were met by jeers when they toured the area of violence in a police car with sound amplifier, appealing for a cessation of fighting.

Jan 22 1943

White and Saunders said one cause of the emotional disturbance that resulted in the riots was a widespread, erroneous report among members of their race that a Negro woman and child were slain Sunday on Belle Isle, recreational and swimming spot in the Detroit River.

They recommended mobilization of 200 Negro leaders deputized as special officers as the best means to halt the rioting. Police agreed to the recruiting of 200 Negroes as special aides, but said they would not be deputized and would not carry arms.

Auxiliary special policemen trained by Civilian Defense units to aid the police during air raids were ordered mobilized. Among them are many Negroes.

At noon Police Commissioner John Witherspoon said the situation appeared to be breaks of violence in the 10-square-mile area extending out-Gratiot Avenue. He said 99 percent of the disturbances were occurring in this area.

DETROIT POLICE Survey ACCUSED

Pittsburgh, Pa.

STREETS OF GLASS!

DETROIT, Mich., July 1—Numerous streets in the Negro district, including the famed Hastings street, became "streets of glass" during the heigth of race rioting here last Monday. For blocks and blocks, pedestrians walked or rode over glass, in some places three and four inches deep.

Writer Finds Plenty Of Evidence on Hand To Warrant a Grand Jury Investigation

By WILLIAM G. NUNN
Managing Editor

DETROIT, June 26—POSITIVE ... not negative ... ACTION is needed here AT ONCE!

Out of the welter of this city's riotous 24 hours of savagery, which listed 34 dead, 675 injured, 1,362 jailees, five things stand out in bold relief against the "symphony of hate" background which enveloped the town.

1. THERE MUST BE A GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION.
2. THE DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT MUST BE CLEANSED.
3. THE PART PLAYED BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS MUST BE THOROUGHLY CHECKED AND EXPOSED.
4. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE A FIRM ATTITUDE AND MAKE KNOWN THAT ATTITUDE AS IT AFFECTS MINORITY GROUPS.
5. IT WOULD BE SUICIDAL TO REMOVE U. S. TROOPS FROM THE SCENE OF THE RIOTING UNTIL RACE TENSION HAS COMPLETELY SUBSIDED.

There must be no "whitewashing" of the riot and the incidents which led up to the riot.

There must be no "pussyfooting" on the part of Gov. Harry S. Kelly and Mayor Edward J. Jeffries.

These men and other public officials of the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan must not ... and should not be allowed to ... play politics at the expense of human lives.

These are the luminous impressions which the writer has gathered in the past 48 hours .. hours of intense probing ... hours spent in talking to hundreds of people, both black and white ... hours spent in driving through the streets ... querying army officials ... representatives of national organizations ... labor leaders ... civic leaders ... soldiers and officers of the law.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS NEEDED FOR PROBE?

Governor Kelly has just said that no grand jury investigation was being planned into the race rioting. Apparently, the governor's decision sprung from the belief that sufficient evidence couldn't be secured to warrant a true bill and obtain indictments.

We wonder, however, if there is something else behind the Governor's statement?

We wonder if the Governor expects any sane, intelligent person to believe the statement of Attorney General Herbert J. Rushton, who said:

"You cannot start a grand jury probe on hysteria ..."

What evidence is needed for a grand jury investigation?

Has Governor Kelly looked closely at the photographs of the white rioters, snapped by the Detroit Free Press?

Has Mayor Jeffries looked closely at the actions of his fine (sic) police force as they allowed white hoodlums to beat up and batter helpless Negroes . . . holding the Negroes as riot instigators and not bothering to arrest the whites?

Are Governor Kelly and Mayor Jeffries so blind that they have failed to notice the picture of one rioter who appeared in FOUR different shots . . . and of another rioter who appeared in TWO different shots?

Are these public officials blind to the fact that of the 1362 jailed men . . . at least 85 per cent of them were NEGROES?

A GRAND JURY PROBE IS NEEDED AT ONCE. There's plenty of evidence. All one has to do is to stumble over it!

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S "DO NOTHING" ATTITUDE

And now, with the decent citizens . . . both white and colored . . . clamoring for his recall, Mayor Jeffries' vacillating policy in letting the affair get "out of control" stands out in bold relief.

The police department, as you may (or may not know) is Mayor Jeffries' child. Commissioner of Police Witherspoon is his appointee.

Here are some of the questions Mayor Jeffries MUST answer:

Why was it that the police allowed the riot situation to get so completely out of hand?

Why couldn't the police have broken up the marauding groups of whites who stormed street cars and buses during the height of the rioting Monday, pulling innocent men to the streets and beating them?

Why was it that of the 1,362 jailed, over 1,000 were colored?

Why was it that of the 27 Negroes shot and "killed in cold blood," EIGHTEEN of them came to their deaths from bullets fired by policemen, according to informed sources?

Why was it that the police lined up respectable Negro residents against the wall of an apartment building and used "gestapo" methods in terrorizing and bull-dozing?

Why is it that, out of a police force of 3,800 men, there are only 43 Negro officers and none of these hold rank above that of patrolman?

The Pittsburgh Courier admits that the looting of stores in the Negro neighborhood is a crime . . but it's petty thievery and we do not believe that human life should be the price a petty thief must pay.

Mayor Jeffries . . . you and your police department must be held accountable.

A Grand Jury investigation is needed, if for no other reason than to expose and clean up the police department, which now ranks, candid observers say, with the worst in the nation.

NEGRO POLICEMEN SHOULD BE INCREASED!

Mr. Mayor, may we call your attention to these facts, which we found out, and which we are sure you know!

Why is it that there are only 43 Negro policemen out of a force of 3,800? The ratio is slightly above one per cent.

Why is it that a man of the calibre of Patrolman Bill Watson, former captain of the University of Michigan track team, is writing dog licenses?

Why is it that Patrolman Rex Smith is an "errand boy" . . . Patrolman Larry Bleach, a former captain of the University of Detroit basketball team, can't be upgraded!

What is wrong with the qualifications of men like Patrolmen Jesse Stewart, former member of the University of Michigan track team, and Willie Williams, well known as an amateur floor and ring workman?

Aren't these men eligible for promotions . . . or do you too believe as does Superintendent of Police Louis Berg, that the "time isn't ripe yet for a Negro police sergeant?"

If that is so, why are so many Detroit Americans of Polish descent holding high positions in the police department?

Aside from Superintendent of Police Berg, the list includes Chief of Detectives Paul Wencel; Senior Inspector Thomas Wysocki, Deputy Superintendent Albert Siski, several Polish-American precinct inspectors and a number of lieutenants.

We have no brief for these men, but a man's qualifications should be measured when advancements are meted out. Mr. Mayor, we point these things out to you, because Commissioner Witherspoon is your appointee, and you should have told him what you wanted.

By the way, Mr. Mayor, wasn't it you who took that "convenient" vacation to Florida last year during the Sojourner Truth housing project trouble? If we're wrong, correct us!

SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS ARE SAID TO BE BUSY

It has been repeatedly published in the daily press, that there has been no evidence of subversive activities . . . that the Fascist element is MISSING in Detroit . . . that the whites who did most of the damage in the rioting were teen-age youths . . . "certainly not over 25 years old."

Again, Governor Kelly and Mayor Jeffries, we want to call your attention to the evidence. Pictures—scores of them—show this conception to be absolutely wrong.

The pictures of the persons who apparently took the most interest in the rioting are not ALL youths. Many of them are men . . . strong, healthy, able-bodied men!

Congressman Dies believes that Japanese influences worked with the Negroes to start the riot. Other commentators have blamed the large influx of Southern Negroes. But what about the Southern whites!

What about the Ku Klux Klan element which has definitely been exposed as instigating the trouble at the Packard plant?

What about the efforts of these Southern whites who have tried to force upon Detroit the pattern of their Dixie communities?

What about the "not-so-subtle" effort to Southernize Detroit?

Negroes accept the responsibility of those Southerners of their own color, who may have become too bold when they found out about Detroit's liberalism, its strong union background which sees that ALL men get honest pay for an honest day's work. Negroes are trying hard to educate these people to the real meaning of Americanism, but how can they do so, unless the public officials of Detroit accept their responsibility?

There are Fascist elements at work . . . and if Mayor Jeffries and Governor Kelly find themselves unable to cope with the problem, then they should appeal for Government aid.

The FBI admits it has no evidence . . . YET . . . to substantiate the general belief that the riots were "inspired." Then, what have they been doing these many months? What have they done about Mr. Thomas' charge of Klan activity? Certainly, where there is much smoke, there must be some fire.

GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE ITSELF CLEAR

All the blame cannot be placed upon the city and state officials. The Federal Government must accept its share of the blame and responsibility.

Why has nothing been done about the men indicted in the Sojourner-Truth trouble of more than a year ago?

Why has there been no FBI action (to our knowledge) on the wealth of evidence placed in its hands by the United Automobile Workers, the Civil Liberties Federation of Michigan, the Detroit branch of the NAACP and other groups?

Why is it that the Government has taken no positive stand on the status of the Negro and other minority groups in this country? Certainly, if President Roosevelt were to take POSITIVE action, and let the nation know that Negroes are American citizens (first-class and not second) much of the ill feeling would be abolished.

Why is it that the segregated pattern of living, working, playing and dying must be perpetuated?

We found out that Detroit's 2,000,000 people include 190,000 Negroes. (The census gives the figure at 160,000).

Why must they be confined to Paradise Valley, bounded by Grat-iot, Woodward, Hastings and Forrest . . . territory roughly estimated at 14,000 square miles?

Why must they be confined to the North End . . . where 25,000 live . . . and the West End, bounded by Warren, Tireman, Grand Boulevard and Livernois?

These Negroes have property estimated at more than $2,500,000.

They control their own business establishments, cafes, drug stores, restaurants, hotels, apartment buildings. There are 150 colored teachers in a mixed school system.

There are 1,200 Negro motormen, conductorettes and bus drivers. Most of the Negroes have good jobs in war industrial plants. They are employed (about 35,000 of them) at Ford's, Chrysler, General Motors' plants, Packard and the Briggs Motor Works.

These men and women are Americans. The government must recognize them as so. When the government acts, then state, county and city officials will have a concrete example of the kind of democracy we talk about, at work.

DON'T MOVE OUT TROOPS . . . YET!

We have just received information that General Guthner, commanding the troops patrolling the "danger zone" in Detroit, won't move out all his troops for "at least another 10 days."

Things have been quiet. The troops, when they moved in, did an excellent job. But there is still a tenseness in the air. There is exaggerated politeness manifested in downtown Detroit when members of the two races brush each other. It's a "You First, My Dear Alfonso" gesture.

But many of the hoodlum element, both white and colored, are muttering dire threats about what they will do "when the soldiers leave."

Frankly, we believe the worst is over, if the nine-man council and the Detroit Citizens' committee work with the governing bodies to quell disturbances.

This is the picture as we've seen it. We have tried to be factual, giving the truth, but not pulling our punches. We end as we started: — SOMETHING POSITIVE MUST BE DONE!

U. S. Troops To Guard Detroit Until August

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia,

War Department Carries Out NAACP Requests

DETROIT, Mich. — (SNS) — U. S. Troops will remain here until sometime in August, according to assurances made by the NAACP by Adjutant General James A Ulio.

JUL 13 1943

In answer to the NAACP's urging that troops not be withdrawn immediately after the July 4th holiday, General Uulio wired NAACP "your message is appreciated and precautionary measures have been taken accordingly." The NAACP feels that it would be better to keep the troops indefinitely than to remove them one day too soon and has expressed the conviction that it would be well for the War department to wait until cold weather sets in and the tendency of people to congregate in parks and on street corners has lessened, before it orders the removal of soldiers stationed here.

EXPRESSES THANKS

In expressing appreciation for the War department's decision to keep the federal troops here until August, Walter White, executive secretary, wrote General Ulio:

"I returned from Detroit this morning. It is my conviction, based upon my personal observations and those also of members of our staff, who have been constantly in De-

the riot had the federal troops been removed on July 6. No steps, of which we are aware, have been taken to remedy the deficiencies of the Detroit City Police Department which played a part in the causes of the riot. Some steps are being taken by Governor Kelly to reorganize the state police, but the basic evils out of which the riot arose

troit since June 20, that there would have been a resumption of the riot had the federal troops been removed on July 6. No steps, of which we are aware, have been taken to remedy the deficiencies of the Detroit City Police Department which played a part in the causes of the riot. Some steps are being taken by Governor Kelly to reorganize the state police, but the basic evils out of which the riot arose

s it true, Mr. Erlone, that Miss Dalton was in no condition to protect herself and you lifted her into the front seat?"

"No! I didn't lift her into the seat."

Jan's voice sounded throughout the room. There was a quick buzz of conversation.

"Why did you leave an unpro-

Detroit Has Done Little to Solve Race Problem

Arrest of Five in Murders, 40 Days Later, First Real Prosecutions

By JAMES A. WECHSLER
PM's National Editor

PM
New York, N. Y.

AUG 1 1943

DETROIT, July 31.—Forty days after a race riot that stunned the U. S. A., this city is still groping for an answer to the tensions that precipitated the outbreak. Only the first faltering moves have been made to avert another flare-up. The prevailing mood is a mixture of fatalism and wishful thinking.

There are plenty of well-intentioned people in this region who want to do something about it. A large majority of local inhabitants were dismayed and angered by the events of June 21. Yet a five-day survey of local opinion, from top city officials to men in the street, reveals little conviction that real progress has been made since the frightful battles that cost 35 lives.

Things Undone

Nobody pretends, of course, that the cause and cure of so grave a clash could be uncovered in six weeks. More serious, however, is the evidence of things undone that might have been done, of opportunities lost, of slow-motion procedures and continuing timidity:

¶ In the crucial weeks after the riot occurred, no major campaign was undertaken to exploit the sense of shame that swept Detroit and to convert the incident into a rallying-cry for decent relations between races. A lot of people just wanted to forget. Others felt it was "bad politics" to labor the point. The Public Library issued a notable four-page leaflet quoting illustrious Americans on the perils of intolerance. It was a good job. But it was just an item. The radio, the billboards, the press—all the media of public pressure—were hardly used.

¶ Virtually everyone agrees that Detroit's terrible housing jam was a major factor contributing to the explosion. Still any large-scale program to alleviate the housing problem remains remote. Months ago Detroit's private real estate interests insisted that private construction could absorb the huge immigrant population. They were dismally wrong. But they haven't changed much. Today they still tenaciously oppose any construction of Negro dwellings in "white" areas.

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In fact the City Council is on record with a resolution condemning any housing that "alters the racial character" of a neighborhood. If this ban prevails, only about 1000 Negro housing units—in the most desolate areas—can be built in unused Negro territory. Public officials frankly admit that present plans for white housing are entirely inadequate to meet the need. One detects, however, little sense of urgency, little determination to face the issue.

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Lack of Confidence

¶ Whtaever the detailed facts of the Detroit riot, the complete lack of confidence of the Detroit Negro population (close to 200,000 people) in the local police force is unmistakable. This bitterness goes back a long way. It was significantly intensified this week when Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon backed up Special Prosecutor William E. Dowling's charge that Negro organizations and newspapers were chiefly responsible for the riot.

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There is one elementary measure that could be taken to alter Negro attitudes: a substantial increase in the number of Negro policemen. (At present Negro police constitute about 1 per cent of the force although the Negro population is approximately 10 per cent of the city.)

Under existing physical standards for the police there are probably not many Negroes out of the Army who could pass the tests. The Police Commissioner, however, flatly refuses to relax the standards. In an interview he told me that he had found no trace of police misconduct in the riot and that he could not fathom the hostility of Negroes toward his force.

Five persons were arrested Friday for complicity in starting the outbreak and its killings; one is a Negro, the others are white, the latter including a soldier.

Prosecuting Attorney Dowling said that the Negro, Leo Tipton, is the man who grabbed a microphone in a Negro night club on the night of June 20 and told 500 persons that a colored woman and her baby had been killed at Belle Isle Park.

The prosecutor said that the four white men—Pvt. Armedo Mastantuano, 20; Aldo Trani, 16; Robert Catton, 17, and Anthony Sacraceno, 18—will be named in a murder charge, for the killing of an aged Negro, Moses Kiska, whom they encountered while roaming the streets hunting for Negroes.

These are the first major prosecutions undertaken since the riot; the previous cases have been misdemeanors and felonies. These arrests will not overnight transform the feelings of the Negroes who believe that they never get a break from the police. And as long as the Police Commissioner says his force is being persecuted without reason by the Negro populace (or what he called "a small minority" of Negroes) no decisive improvement is likely.

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Detroit's recreational facilities are seriously limited by sheer physical factors; the city has grown too fast for itself. The Recreation Department lacks funds and personnel. Once again, however, one finds inertia and vested interest blocking even minor reform. George Emery, member of the Detroit Planning Commission, was quizzed this week by Mayor Edward Jefferies' Interracial Committee—set up after the riot. He was asked whether private builders were being forced to leave some space vacant for recreational facilities in new construction projects. The answer was no.

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'Same Mistake'

"You mean we are continuing to make the same mistakes all over again," one committee member said.

"Yes," he replied.

He explained that the planning commission was concerned with a "long-range" program for the city. The plan was not yet evolved. Would it be ready within a year? He hoped so.

"We don't want to do anything on the spur of the moment," he added.

Prospects for educational activity in the schools are reported to be favorable. Heard uniformly optimistic predictions on this count; the new school superintendent expected to initiate some form of race-relations program in the coming semester. This was the best news I heard in Detroit. At least it appeared definite.

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Leadership Needed

Detroit needs housing, recreation, education—space and opportunity for people to live together in peace and cool off when their tempers are high. Even under the most vigorous auspices these changes cannot be wrought in a moment. What Detroit needs now is courageous and imaginative civic leadership.

This is where Mayor Edward Jeffries becomes the key figure. A slender, sombre man who looks as if he is carrying most of the world's travails, Jeffries is a familiar, Hamlet-like character. Last year, when he fought for Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth houses, he was picketed as a "nigger lover." Today he is under equally bitter attack from Negro spokesmen for failing to buck the real estate interests, for not providing aggressive leadership in the anti-discrimination battle. He is scorned by the "pure whites," distrusted by many Negroes.

I talked to Jeffries at length this week. He is acutely conscious of his dilemma. His private feelings on the race problem are unmistakable: He wants to get a better break for minorities. On the public record his performance is far from impressive. He has compromised, side-stepped, soft-pedalled since the Sojourner Truth episode.

What happens next here? Nobody is making any predictions; the uncertainty reflects the local jitters. Until this week's outbursts by Dowling and Witherspoon some observers thought the tension was subsiding. Psychologically, however, relations appeared to have deteriorated even before that incident. Significantly, some of the white officials who have heretofore been most responsive to Negro problems seem to have grown embittered, defensive, belligerent. Resenting Negro criticism of their compromises, they seek to justify themselves by magnifying Negro sins. Dowling's utterance shocked many of his Negro friends.

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Still Muddling

Meanwhile, the Optimists Club continues to hold its weekly luncheons at the Book-Cadillac. The Mayor's Interracial Committee, composed of some of the best spirits in the area, is going through its motions in an air of unreality; it ended its last meeting by wishing the chairman a pleasant vacation; most of its plans are long-term, vague, requiring more inspiration from City Hall.

Detroit, 40 days after, still is trying to muddle through.

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Name-Calling Won't Help

The boldness and vigor with which 28-year-old Councilman George S. Edwards of Detroit is attacking the lackadaisical attitude of high ranking municipal leaders towards the proposed grand jury investigation of the recent Detroit riot, cannot fail to make a deep and lasting impression upon the minds of Negro and white citizens who foresee a recurrence of another such disaster, unless prompt and wise measures are taken to prevent it.

Atlanta, Georgia
Daily World

Young Edwards, a native Texan and graduate of Southern Methodist College, challenged county and local officials, who have resisted a grand jury probe of Detroit's riot by contenting themselves with blaming Negroes and Negro organizations. "The wild riot and murder of June 21 can and precipitating must happen again unless adequate steps are taken now," Edwards stated. His charge against Prosecutor William Dowling and Police Commissioner William T. Witherspoon for gro Press" and their "outburst of accusations and recriminations," are serious. It will be remembered that these two public offi- prejudice. But the cials had accused the National Association for the Advance- riot. 85 per cent

AUG 1 1943

Of course, it is an easy matter to whisper up the "Ne- and other stock-in-trade arguments of politi- visions are blinded by personal preferment and ut the fact that out of 18,000 arrested in the cent were Negroes; that out of 29 Negroes dead,

17 were shot by police; that 13 deaths are still unsolved, speaks too loud to be drowned out by such voices as Prosecutor Dowling and Police Commissioner Witherspoon.

We can get nowhere calling names. Negro and white people alike are deeply interested in an investigation. And the fact that these two public officials could reach such a conclusion against Negroes and their organizations, reflects the grossest insincerity and unscientific reasoning. But Edwards' statement, being the first to take a stand among municipal officials, puts the next move up to Mayor Edward Jeffries and his council. United Auto Workers President R. J. Thomas characterized the charges by Dowling and Witherspoon as "the greatest incitement to race riot since the riot itself."

Moreover, Negro and white America, in and out of Detroit, are vitally concerned about the 13 unsolved deaths, which the Columbia Broadcasting chain exposed. Is it conceivable that Detroit's leaders are content to whitewash all the facts brought out by the pictures emanating from that city, together with what researchers are laying bare? What is it that needs covering up from the eyes of the grand jury? Who is to blame for not having such an investigation? We confess, from the very beginning, politics and personal interests have been too frequently referred to in the entire episode.

FBI Should Investigate Subversive Attitude Of Detroit's Police Force

NOW that the smoke has lifted over Detroit, the one thing that strikes everyone full in the face is that the Detroit police killed more people than the rioters; **AND ALL THE PEOPLE THEY KILLED WERE COLORED.** Philadelphia Tribune

The police force of a city is an arm of the law, financed by the taxpayers for the protection of all within the city's gates. Whenever this force becomes so callous, so prejudiced, so derelict that it destroys only the members of one race, arrests colored people on a ratio of six to one while a race riot is going on, nothing else is needed to show that the police are governed and motivated by something else than a desire to protect life and property.

The Federal Government is committed to the protection of the lives of all American citizens. Let those who doubt it again read the Constitution of the United States.

If there ever was a group which should be investigated by Mr. Hoover's F. B. I., that group is the Detroit police. If done in thorough F. B. I. fashion, only benefits can accrue. America will get a chance to see just what subversive, anti-democratic forces are at work garbed in the uniform of the law.

Colored Americans will then re-acquire a faith which has long since been dimmed by police brutality in our metropolitan areas. With 16 slabs in the morgue occupied by colored bodies, put there by police bullets, it is little enough for colored America to ask.

DETROIT'S POLICE MUST BE INVESTIGATED.

Urban League Blames Housing In Detroit Riot

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NEW YORK—Poor and inadequate housing for a rapidly expanding Negro population and discrimination against colored persons in employment, were held responsible for the Detroit race riots in a report drawn up by the National Urban League and released here late last week.

The report was based on findings of the industrial department of the league in an investigation conducted during and shortly after the Detroit disturbances.

Measures to curb influences that tend toward lawlessness and racial conflict were outlined in the work as was also a plan to put into effect a long term program of "social betterment for Negroes and education of both races in the fundamentals of good citizenship."

"Pressure of population due to the influx of new workers, black and white, may be considered the first contributing cause," the report held in its discussion of the underlying cause of the rioting.

In 1910, there were 5,742 Negroes in the city; in 1920, there were 40,838, and in 1930, there were 120,066, with the 1940 census reporting 149,120, a number that has increased materially in the last two years, the report said.

Accuses Detroit Police

It was also pointed out that Detroit police are believed to have shown racial discrimination in arresting 1,200 Negroes and only 200 whites, the report urged that the full strength of the police department and courts should be marshaled to preserve order and respect for the laws and that "public officials lacking in courage and willingness to discharge their responsibilities should be removed."

The league also advocated retention of the Federal troops in Detroit for at least 90 days. It stated the opinion that "efforts to increase housing facilities for Negro and white war workers should vigorously be pushed."

The long term program proposed that education in race and human relations should be developed in the city, as "hatreds and animosities which have been known to exist for so long cannot be eradicated in a short time." The public schools, the report said, should make a greater effort to teach proper attitudes on race as the Chicago schools are doing.

Danger of Riots Still Exists In Detroit, ACLU Warns

New York, N. Y.

Detroit is listed as one of 23 American cities where the danger of race riots exists, in a pamphlet released this week by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Prepared by the ACLU's Committee Against Race Discrimination, the pamphlet *How to Prevent a Race Riot in Your Home Town* also names Birmingham, Ala.; Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, Conn.; Chicago, Ill.; Indianapolis and Gary, Ind.; Alexandria, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport, La.; Baltimore Md.; Newark, N. J.; Columbus, O.; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chester, Pa.; Providence, R. I.; Houston and Dallas, Tex.; Memphis, Tenn., and Washington, D. C.

To prevent riots, the pamphlet proposes six steps:

¶ Form a Public Relations Committee of influential persons to check with the mayor, chief of police and governor to determine what arrangements have been made for bringing in extra police and militia in the event of an outbreak.

¶ The Public Relations Committee should also check with the chief of police on the policing of Negro neighborhoods and communities with mixed Negro and white residents.

¶ Ask citizens to report all rumors about racial trouble to a center designated by the Committee.

¶ Provide jobs and work for young people, both white and Negro, some of whom might otherwise participate in race riots.

¶ Set up an Information Committee which can be depended upon to provide reliable and authoriative information on local race relations.

¶ A final emergency measure is to call in the aid of the clergy and of church members.

FACE THE FACTS IN RACE RIOTS

Christian Recorder

Race rioting such as that which engulfed Detroit in a wave of bloodshed and terrorism is the bitter fruit of a great American failure: the failure to face courageously and to deal effective-

ly with the problem of the Negro and other racal minorities.

Until we recognize that it is our generations of neglect that are the basic fruit, and proceed to apply a sound and comprehensive remedy, the scenes o fmob violence that have scared Detroit—the killings, the injuries, the pillage—are bound to recur elsewhere.

It takes more than soldiers armed with machine-guns to put a stop to race riots, lynchings and other manifestations of mob hatred. It takes education and justice and a decent regard for the rights of others.

Too many of us have acted as though our duty to the Negroes in this country ended with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, as though misery and oppression could be mitigated by words on a piece of paper. Too often men and women have been treated with contempt and cruelty because of their color; have been given technical freedom only to find that freedom, too, has its bars.

Philadelphia, Pa.

While a large portion of our population has been left to endure a bleakly subservient existence, a state of living that is the ultimate in sub-standard, Government officials, with the aid of star-gazing theorists, have been drawing elaborate plans for curing the ills of the whole world. With neat diagrams and sanitary phrases they have been plannng a de luxe post-war world for the Hottentots an dthe Eskimos, while holding their well-bred noses against the stench of our own back streets.

We have condemned the racist doctrines of the Nazis that have brought death and torture to untold millions of helpless persons in Europe, but have overlooked the race prejudice festering in the heart of America.

We have seen fit, in short-sighted righteousness, to condemn the British for their handling of the Indian problem, whle failing miserably to solve the Negro problem here at home.

The explosive violence in Detroit affords convincing proof that we must get our heads out of the clouds and face with realism and intelligence the question of racial minorities in our large cities.

Adequate housing, educational and recreational facilities play a part in any solution. Establishment of inter-racial committees to consider and act upon differences that crop up between whites and Negroes is a well-recommended step. Above all, a changed attitude of mind and a fine sense of justice are indispensable in dealing with this critical matter.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

—Editorial.

...ry at home ...democracy at ...true ...honest, ...ures of prevention must be ...station the police ...because of telligent and democratic treatment of ...the whole Negro question, a treatment ...ervation of law and or- ...based no upon assumption of racial su- ...periority, but on the God-given princi- ...requisite in preventing Detroit disorder. That ple that "all men are created equal." ...efficient local police. Before rushing out to save the world ...beyond such measlet us begin to safeguard justice and

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Michigan

DETROIT:--CITY OF SILENCE!

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Midnight Curfew Law Makes "Ghost Town" Out of Paradise Valley; No One Out But Gimlet-Eyed Soldiers and War Plant Workers

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DETROIT, Mich., June 25—"Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight!"

History books have made this famous passage a by-word among school kids throughout the nation!

But never was the situation more emphatically emphasized than tonight, here in the famous industrial city, which serves as an "arsenal of democracy."

Perhaps you don't know it . . . but there was No Martial Law in Detroit. There was a "State of Emergency" existing and under this restrictive set-up, saloons were closed, mass meetings were forbidden and for three nights a 10 p.m. to 6 a. m. curfew law was established.

BELLE ISLE RE-OPENED

Thursday, Governor Kelly eased the ban. Bars were open until 10 p.m. Belle Isle, where the trouble started Sunday night a week ago, was re-opened. Beer was sold Thursday . . . whiskey Friday!

Ball games were played . . . under the watchful eyes of troops . . . and Negroes attended.

But when the sun went down at night, there was a gradual tightening up of frayed nerves . . . a feeling of tension. The crowds were superficially gay . . . there was more noise than usual . . . and a lot more people crowding the streets! There were no gatherings. Alert soldiers kept people on the move. But they did it in routine fashion, impersonally, and without showing any partiality.

MIDNIGHT SEES LIGHTS GO OUT

Came 10 o'clock and the beer taverns closed. Came 11 o'clock and the movies disgorged their human patrons.

Came 11:30 p.m. and the streets started slowly to clear.

MIDNIGHT:—Doors closed . . . lights dimmed . . . streets deserted!

Paradise Valley . . . "ghost town" of the Mid-West. Nothing astir but gimlet-eyed troops motor-patrolling the streets and an occasional war worker either going to his job or coming home for a deserved rest.

JUL 3 1943

JUL 3 1943

JUL 3 1943

Misquoted

DETROIT — (ANP) — Asserting he had no evidence to support an indictment of the NAACP and affirming that he would prosecute any police officer guilty of abusing Negro citizens, Prosecutor William E. Dowling pleaded for understanding of his position last week during an interview.

"I was misquoted by the reporter who attended the conference in my office last Monday with the representatives of the mayor's committee," replied Dowling to charges he had blamed the NAACP for the race riots of July 21. "The reporter took no notes and I imagine he wrote his story from memory."

Dowling said the only thing the NAACP had done in the Sojourner Truth riot was to raise money to defend these persons arrested. He added that charges made by the Redford Record recently that the militant organization was Communist-controlled had been investigated and found to be false.

CITES RECORD

The prosecutor, claiming he would never oppose a grand jury probe of the disorders despite allegations to the contrary, cites his record in office, pointing out that he was the first law enforcer to recommend a murder warrant for a policeman.

"All I want are the signed complaints and I will get the facts and see that the guilty parties are prosecuted," he assured. "I have a duty to perform and my only opposition to calling a grand jury is because it will not reveal the genesis of the trouble.

"We are investigating the immediate cause, and when my fact-finding report to the governor is revealed, it will show that hoodlums, black and white, who had any part in this disgraceful riot will be smoked out."

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Dowling reported that he had sent his special investigator into the Bethune district to investigate charges that police officers were using high handed methods against Negroes there. He said that as a result, the Sensation Bar, a popular rendezvous, was reopened after being closed by a squad. Facts uncovered by his aide, he said, did not support grounds for its closing and he added the officers responsible will be ordered to appear before the trial board.

GIVES HIS STAND

The prosecutor revealed he had called in Police Commissioner John Witherspoon and other officials of the department and informed them that such "unwarranted action" by their men will not be "tolerated."

"If the people want a grand jury and think I am trying to protect the police," he continued, "they should understand that any citizen can petition the circuit bench or the attorney general of Michigan for a grand jury. This right belongs to every citizen.

"The NAACP, the Negro press, and R. J. Thomas of the CIO have denied my qualifications to conduct a grand jury. I accept the challenge. I have no objection to them asking any agency for a grand jury, since they have no faith in me. I shall be available, however, if they should ever show they have faith in my ability to do the job.

"The only request I have to ask of colored leaders and the press is that they first report to me incidents relative to the rioting or undue police injustice. Stop protecting law violators. If I should fail to satisfy them by my investigations they can go to other higher agencies or charge me with failing to perform my job."

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Dowling Absolves NAACP Of Riot Blame In Detroit

Prosecutor Says He Was

ALDO TRANI, ARMENDO MASTANTUANO CONFESS DELIBERATE RIOT MURDER

The Northwest

DETROIT, July 0. — Prosecutor William E. Dowling said today two of four white youths held by police have told him "a story of cold-blooded murder" of a Negro during Detroit race riots June 21.

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Enterprise

Confessions of Aldo Trani, sixteen, and Armendo Mastantuano, twenty, Dowling said, accounted for the slaying of Moses Kiska, fifty-eight-year-old Negro shot down as he waited for a street car at Mack Ave and Chene St., June 21.

Police today also held Leo Tipton, Negro described by Dowling as a "key figure" in the riots. The prosecutor said Tipton seized a public address microphone at a gathering of 500 Negroes late the evening of June 20 and shouted, "Everybody come on, there is a riot at Belle Isle and they have killed a colored lady and her baby." Tipton will be charged with inciting to riot Dowling said.

Seattle

Spread of this false rumor through the Negro district, police have said, was largely responsible for swelling the rioting to proportions where it caused the death of thirty-four persons.

The Kiska slaying was one of thirteen riot deaths listed as unsolved.

Washington

Dowling said this was the story he got from Trani and Mastantuano:

"Trani and Mastantuano were out driving and stopped at one of their favorite hangouts, a pool room.

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"They saw the two other youths, whom they said they knew as 'Bob' and 'Blackie'. The four of them got in the car and decided to 'go and get us some niggers.'

"Mastantuano had a rifle. At Mack and Chene they saw Kiska waiting in the street car zone. Trani said to his companion, 'Give me the gun.' He leaned out of the car and fired. They saw Kiska grab his chest and topple over. They drove away, and then separated."

Formal charges against Trani and Mastantuano were withheld as Dowling continued questioning the other youths held

Action Against Rioters Now

Now that the disgraceful Detroit rioting appears under control, every agency with five dollars of the taxpayer's money to spend owes it to investigate the causes of the rioting, when according to documented reports in the newspaper PM, the Government was informed that the riot was impending more than fifteen months ago.

JUL 3 1943

Tribune Washington, D. C.

Even the Dies Committee, which has blinked at the many lynchings in the South, including Dies' State of Texas, has announced that it is going to investigate the riot.

We think that the Dies Committee investigation would be just so much waste of the taxpayer's money. We doubt in the first place that his investigation would be sincere. Chances are it would result in a white wash of the mobsters.

The causes of the riots are already known, and Mr. Dies has only to black his face and walk in any Negro

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property against unlawful invaders.

The Negroes were shot for attempting to defend their lives and

districts, shooting all begun by white h

case of the Negroes banding together, invading white districts, for the purpose accomplished. They ing and killing whites. The riots were and and abetted by Detroit's police, who ing Detroit's Fasci more Negroes than did the mobsters. them. For whatev ders, and murderers a single white rioter, although 15 Nederers.

The riot wasn for attempting to

of the riot, gators of the riot, and those who perpetrated it, includ- whatever the causes, the results were mur- derers should receive the penalties of mur- step to be taken is to weed out the insti- Fascist police force, and arrest and indict

forced into a position wherein it was paramount that they fight back in defense of their very lives. The law certainly permits a person to shoot to defend life and property. With police permitting white rioters to continue their field day and themselves shooting and beating Negroes who fought back, the most disgraceful aspect of the entire incident is presented.

If the motto, "Equal Justice Under Law," means anything to Americans, we certainly have a right to insist that the Federal Government through its enforcement agencies (not investigative bodies) take immediate steps to round up the perpetrators of this crime, and bring them to a speedy justice. Only firm and positive action now, will prevent riots from spreading into other sections of the Country, and serve to let the people know, that rioting and internal dissension will not be tolerated by Uncle Sam. Government silence can mean only one thing—that it approved the rioting, and other riots will logically follow to take their toll in human lives, and impede the war effort.

Guardian

KEEP THEM THERE

The shooting in Detroit is over, at least temporarily, and peace, perhaps precarious, has been restored to the battle-scarred streets of "the world's greatest arsenal" for freedom. Investigations of the shameful outbreak will seek to uncover its causes, from which can be devised precautionary measures against a recurrence. Whatever preventive arrangements are adopted must be based upon a frank acceptance of the truth that order in any community, even in the most civilized, can be maintained only by physical force, either present or speedily available. The Boston police strike was immediately followed by an eruption of the unregenerate; peace was ushered in by soldiers rushed to the beleagued city. But we like to think of Boston as highly civilized.

Detroiters will do well to ponder the advice of one of its own newspapers, the Detroit News, which editorially summed up the situation as follows:

"It will be wise not to deceive ourselves about the possibility of a recurrence of race rioting after the Federal troops are withdrawn, if they are withdrawn.

"We must keep in mind the kind of people we have to deal with in this connection. They are half-baked, half-educated people, white and colored alike. An appeal to reason or patriotism directed to them will be quite futile under present circumstances.

Boston, Mass.

"The bald truth is that we have here in Detroit, a bad inter-racial situation. We should like it known, for the sake of Detroit's good name, that its worst ingredients are not long residents of this city.

"We hold, though saying it with feelings of shame that Federal troops should be kept on Detroit streets until all violence has passed, and that hereafter a strong body of them should be held in readiness nearby for swift and stern use in case of need."

This sensible warning should be heeded. America cannot afford to take chances in the critical days that lie ahead.

JUL 3 1943

Few Whites Aided Victims of Detroit's Bloody Riot

[Most of the villains of the Detroit race riot, June 21, were whites, but there were a few white heroes, Arnold Beichman, PM staff writer, covered the aftermath of the riot and these are some of his interviews.]

Afro-American

Minister A. and his son patroled Woodward Avenue, Detroit's main street and developed a system of rescuing imperiled colored people. The clergyman would alight from his car, rush into the midst of the rioters and start arguing with them, quoting Scripture, and the Constitution, etc.

"In the meantime, my son would pick up the colored man from the roadway and lead him into the car. Then we would drive off to a hospital."

Cops Stood By

Mrs. X and her daughter were going home by street car. "I saw a colored man sitting near us a few seats away. He was scared. Everybody was looking outside and we were looking at the man. I motioned to him to come over to our seat. We let him push himself under our seat and we covered him. When the car stopped, somebody shouted, 'Any n——s inside?' and somebody said 'no'."

Baltimore, Md.

A college instructor was driving past Roxy and Colonial Theatres where they have all-night shows. "As colored people came out, a mob [illegible] them. Police scout cars were nearby but did nothing. One of the men was a mess, and I told the cop to put him in the back of my car. He said 'OK, n—— lover, get going quick.' The back of my car is stained with a colored man's blood, and I'm going to leave it there. I want to remember this a long time."

Crowd Cheered

A lawyer on his way downtown saw three cops. "They were killing this colored man, using their fists, sticks and feet. A crowd was standing around cheering them on. Finally one of them kicked him in the groin. When I told the cop to stop it, he shoved me back. I told him I was a lawyer and if he touched me again I would sue him for assault. They stopped punching him then, and I put my arm around his shoulders and got him over to a cab. I promised the driver $5 if he'd get me to the Receiving Hospital quick."

Negro Cops: New Detroit Scapegoat

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y. (Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Oct. 1.—While a score of photographs of the rioting during the tragic days of June 21 showed Negroes being beaten mercilessly while being led by police, or show policemen callously observing the mob's brutality against Negroes, the first two policemen charged with neglect of duty were Negroes.

They are Jesse Stewart and Willie Williams who were suspended and arrested and [illegible] on bail awaiting trial. This continued provocation by Police Commissioner John Witherspoon has aroused the entire Negro community. Both officers have had an excellent record of service. They are charged with failing to have stopped a dance crowd allegedly incited by Leo Tipton by a tale of violence against a Negro child.

Negro community leaders are asking when the policemen who gave tacit approval to rioting mobs will be brought to trial. They also want to know why Witherspoon objects so strenuously to a Grand Jury investigation and when the 700 policemen implicated by the Black Legion trials will be cleaned out of the department.

This crass discrimination against two Negro policemen is further aggravated when it is known that only 37 members of the police force of over 3,500 are Negroes and comes at a time when progressive leaders of the community, both Negro and white, have been calling for the hiring of additional Negroes on the police force.

Dowling Changes His Tune

Courier

DETROIT, Aug. 12 — Reports of renewed racial conflicts here last week brought two swift developments. Gov. Harry F. Kelly, vacationing at Mackinac, hurried back to Detroit, and called on the White House for aid in preventing recurrence of race rioting in the Motor City, while Wayne County Prosecutor William E. Dowling sought to ease racial tension by admitting he had no evidence to support an indictment against the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which, two weeks ago, he charged with starting the Detroit riots.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dowling also affirmed that he would prosecute any police officer guilty of abusing Negro citizens and pleaded for understanding of the proper meaning of statements he made in an interview recently in which he said he was misquoted and contended that the reporter who attended his office with members of the mayor's committee got him wrong when it was alleged that he blamed the NAACP for the recent riots. Dowling said the reporter took no notes and, consequently, must have gotten him wrong by writing his story from memory.

SAYS NAACP NOT AT FAULT

Further absolving the NAACP, Dowling said all the organization did in the Sojourner Truth riots was to raise funds with which to defend persons arrested. He admitted that he had investigated reports that the NAACP is Communist-controlled and had found them false. Dowling said he would never oppose a grand jury investigation of the riots, despite allegations to the contrary, and, pointing to his record, declared he was the first law enforcement official to recommend a murder warrant for a policeman.

Dowling promised that if he can get signed complaints against brutality or unfairness of police officers he will see that the guilty parties are prosecuted. He asserted that he has a duty to perform and objects to a grand jury probe largely because it would not disclose the origin of the trouble.

PROMISED TROOPS

Meanwhile, Governor Kelly in conversation with President Roosevelt, Stephen T. Early, secretary, reply to his request for troops on quick summons that U. S. "in a matter of minutes" needed and that this could be secured without the necessity for his making contact with Washington, because the Commanding General of the Service Command in Chicago and

Commanding Officer of Dist. the murder of Morris Kiska, 50, in strict One, Detroit, have been noti- When arraigned fied to provide immediate troops before Judge John Brennan of Re- to the governor requests them. corder's court, the five pleaded not guilty.

At the same time, 35-year-old Leo [illegible], charged with in- 500 persons [illegible] to [illegible] night of the rioting, [illegible] on bond pending an [illegible] hearing.

HOLD FIVE FOR MURDER

Arrest of five more here is the latest development in the [illegible] of Detroit's race riots. The quintet is charged with [illegible] Ralph Tancredi, 20; Anthony Tancredi, 20; Robert Cattone, 16, and Joseph Mastantuone, 20. All are charged with

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Michigan

Cases Need Extra Judges

Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

Paradise Valley Cases; Police, Ministers Differ On Policemen's Conduct

DETROIT, (ANP) — Apparent peace and quiet has once again descended upon Paradise Valley, principal section of the segregated Negro district here, as city officials and private citizens attempt to revert back to normal after the June 21 riots that claimed the lives of 25 Negroes, and nine whites, and resulted in $400,000 worth of damage to property.

City courts were jammed with cases of persons charged with misdemeanors and felonies growing out of the racial disturbance. Most of the defendants however were Negroes who were being convicted by a score of six to one.

Judges from the Wayne county circuit court have come here to assist in the adjudication of the cases but conservative estimates declared that two months or more would be required to clear the docket. Possibility that other cases of mobsters would be scheduled soon were imminent according to court attaches.

Commission Busy

Meanwhile Mayor Edward J. Jeffries interracial commission was busy studying causes of the flareup and seeking remedial methods to satisfy both the Negro and white populations.

Tentative blame for the riots have been laid to the doors of inadequate housing, poor recreational facilities irritations springing up between southern white war workers on the job with Negroes, and the general influx of migrants that has swelled the population out of all proportions to the area's ability to accomodate them.

A psychiatric report has been promised the city by doctors examining riot case defendants, and property owners have indicated they will seek legal redress for damages suffered.

Sharply Criticized

The Rev. Horace A. White, a leading minister here, sharply criticized the police department's record during the rioting in a statement. He said he learned that "young white hoodlums had begun to form mobs as early as 4 or 5 a. m."

"As to white persons firing guns, I cannot testify because I did not see anyone doing so," he said. "But I did see whites with guns. In one group at 6 p. m. on Vernon highway there were several with deer rifles. I saw this from my own observations corroborated by witnesses."

Rev. White also charged that the police made Negroes a "scapegoat group" and sought to "put down the weaker group" in the hope they would satisfy or at least "pacify the whites."

AUG 1 4

Admission

Police Commissioner John H. Witherspoon defended his force, although an admission was drawn from him that they did exercise express prejudice toward Negro citizens. He said though that pictures taken of the riot created certain "false impressions" and caused serious damage to the whites. Witherspoon said he has yet to see pictures of Negro aggression.

Detroit's police investigation showed he continued, that "our decent citizens" took no part in the rioting, and that most "of the persons now being prosecuted, both white and Negro, have records of previous offenses."

Local officials have refused to be quoted on possibilities of recurrence of the race riots, but veteran police officers say privately that the violence won't happen again.

"These fellows just wanted to slug somebody and now they've got it off their chests," declared one grey haired lieutenant. "I haven't seen it so peaceful around here in a long time as it is now."

URGE GRAND JURY QUIZ OF DETROIT RIOT

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Mayor's Committee Lists 13 Unsolved Deaths, Demand Inquiry

JUL 3 1943

DETROIT, — Justice this week stalked the trial of unpunished participants in the June race riots here when a committee appointed by Mayor Jeffries recommended creation of a special grand jury to seek evidence on the killings.

Appointed by the mayor to investigate the causes of the clashes, the committee listed important facts Thursday concerning 13 unsolved deaths resulting from mob violence.

So far, it was stated, the only explanations offered by police for the deaths, have been "gunshot wounds" and "stoning." However, the committee said, all of the 13 listed were killed in public streets, with no indication that they had taken part in the rioting.

JUL 31 1943

Six of the victims were white, seven Negroes. They were shot down or stoned merely because of their race and color, it was asserted, not because anybody had a particular grudge against them. Most of the victims were traveling either to or from work, in their cars.

13 Riot Victims

Following is the unsolved death toll as revealed by Mayor Jeffries' committee:

Dr. Joseph Dehoratiis, 64 years old, white, who died in a hospital of a depressed skull fracture. He was found unconscious in his automobile.

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John Frailich, 43, white, was dead on admission to hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. He was found in the street.

James Kenney, 40, white, who died at hospital from injuries received when he was stoned while on his milk route.

Frederick Lathion, 24, Negro, found dead in the street of gunshot wounds. An unidentified person fired at him from a passing automobile.

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Carrey Hackworth, 29, Negro, died from injuries received when the automobile in which she was a passenger was stoned.

Edward Thompson, 41, white, died in hospital from injuries suffered when the auto in which he was riding was stoned.

Frank Crossman, 68, white, died in hospital from injuries received when stoned in the street.

Mose Kiska, 58, Negro, died in hospital of gunshot wounds received when an unidentified man drove by and opened fire on him.

William McAdoo, 28, Negro, died in hospital of gunshot wounds suffered in street.

Thomas Walker, 33, Negro, died in hospital of gunshot wounds received in an

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Bishop Hall, Negro, died in hospital. He told hospital attendants he was shot by a police officer.

Charles Grundy, 20, Negro, died in hospital from gunshot wounds.

John Holyak, 59, white, died in hospital from infection which developed from broken arm which he received after being stoned.

Lamoretto Seen Dragging Negro From Streetcar

AUG 31 1943

Daily Worker

New York, N. Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Aug. 30.—The close ties between the Nazi fifth column and the anti-Negro riots are becoming more obvious.

Recognized as one of the rioters dragging an innocent Negro victim from a streetcar, was a friend of Parker Sage who is directly implicated with the Nazi spies by the disclosure that at least two were members of his fascist National Workers League outfit.

The rioter, identified from photographs published in a national magazine, is Tony Lammoretto who has been exposed in "Under Cover" as "Tony Bommarito," was introduced to the author, John Roy Carlson, by Parker Sage as "one of the organizers for the society" (Society of Tool and Die Craftsmen) Bommarito or Lammoretto, had bragged to Carlson that he had been a bodyguard for Gerald L. K. Smith in 1939 for which he had received $100 a week.

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FASCIST INTERVIEW

The interlocking membership of the spies in the German American Bund, the National Workers League and other subversive organizations which worked closely together and shared in the membership of the "rank and file," makes the tie-up between the work of the Nazi agents and the anti-Negro strikes and the June 20 insurrection inescapable.

The fact discovered by the **Daily Worker** that one of the associates of Sage and former bodyguard of G. L. K. Smith was active in the violence, establishes the fact even more. Previously, the **Daily Worker** reported that according to the wife of David Cole, secretary-treasurer of the United Sons of America, an offshoot of the Klan that local "had gone down to see what it (the riot, T. D.) was all about."

A call to the Society of Tool and Die Craftsmen elicited the response that Tony Lamoretto was no longer employed as organizer.

FORD IN PICTURE

With the exception of one metropolitan paper, the **Free Press**, which has been calling for a grand jury investigation, the link between the Nazi espionage circle and the anti-Negro insurrection has been ignored.

Again the Ford Motor Company has been brought into the picture by the charge that Bernstrand Hoffman, arrested sailor was also linked espionage at the Ford Motor Plant.

AUG 31 1943

Previously, the report had been published that efforts were made by Dr. Fred Thomas, one of the spies to get employment for Parker Sage at the Ford Motor Company. Although he did not get employment, the **Daily Worker** has established that Charles F. Dexter, leading member of the National Workers League had been employed by the Ford Motor Company and is still employed today.

6 Are Charged With Murder In Detroit Riot

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

AUG 4

Four Youths Are Already Under Arrest

AUG 4 1943

DETROIT (ANS)— Four white youths under arrest and two unidentified persons were formally charged Tuesday with murder in connection with the race rioting here last June 21. The warrant for their arrest was signed by Recorder's Judge John V. Brennan. The victim was listed as Moses Kiska.

Listed as suspects were Aldo Trani, 16, Anthony Saraceno, 18, Armando Mastratuono, 20, and Robert Cattone, 17. They were charged with shooting Kiska to death from an automobile as he was waiting for a street car at an East Side intersection.

Detective Sergeant Charles Buckholdt, of the homicide squad, said unidentified persons also were included in the warrant because it has been discovered that several boys were involved in the shooting.

According to Buckholdt, Trani has admitted shooting Kiska and firing at two other Negroes from an automobile in which he and the other youths were driving around the east side.

The following comment was released this week by the Associated Negro Press:

An interesting sidelight on the riots was to be found in official court records that reveal that although Negroes were the victims of the race hate of American born and developed fascists, most of the defendants involved in court cases are Negroes. Convictions of Negroes have outnumbered that of whites by six to one.

Detroit Riot Report Destroys Confidence in Law—Walter White

AUG 21 1943

NEW YORK — The report on the Detroit riot by Governor Harry F. Kelly's fact finding com-

Maryland

NAACP Raps

mission "solves nothing, further embitters colored citizens and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities," said Walter White, NAACP secretary, upon reading the full text as published in Detroit dailies August 11.

The report blamed colored people for the riot and praised the police, saying, "The ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with law violators."

Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecutor William E. Dowling blamed the NAACP for the riot, and Police Commissiner John E. Witherspoon, whose police force killed 17 of the 25 colored victims, permitted white mobs to roam at will and beat up colored persons, even under "protection" of police, Mr. White said.

Witherspoon's "Whitewash"

The NAACP said Witherspoon's presence on the committee "is undoubtedly responsible for this whitewashing of the police force," and pointed out that colored citizens "have asked nothing but simple justice and the report to the governor calls them agitators."

Detroit dailies gave much space to the report. The Hearst-owned Times gave colored the worst possible "slant" in handling the text. The report was in three parts, but the Times printed only Part I which dealt in greatest detail with fights between colored and white at Belle Isle Park.

Part II, printed in part by the News, blames the colored press, colored leaders and colored organizations for "inspiring" the riot.

Quotes Brown Article

It quotes the complete text of the infamous article of Warren Brown in the January Readers Digest, "A Warning to the Negro Press," and charges the Michigan Chronicle, Detroit Tribune, and Pittsburgh Courier with being "true counterparts of the news papers (sensational, hate-inspiring — Ed.) described by Dr. Brown."

Part III denounces the "victory at home and abroad" idea, names the NAACP and the March on Washington Movement, cites their aims and objectives, resolutions adopted at the NAACP war conference in Detroit, and calls protest against the Red Cross jim crow blood banks a probable incitement to riot.

Negro Accused As Instigator Of Detroit Riot

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Subversive Elements

Absolved After Probe

AUG 12 1943

Detroit, Aug. 11 (AP)—Detroit's race riots of last June 21 were not planned or premeditated, nor were they inspired by subversive enemy influence, a fact-finding committee appointed by Gov. Harry F. Kelly to investigate the disturbances reported today.

"The looting and accompanying rioting followed the spreading of a false rumor by [illegible] Negro, to the effect that whites had killed a colored woman and her child at Belle Isle," it stated.

Negro Held.

Thirty-four deaths and nearly 800 injuries resulted from disorders which followed. Tipton is being held on a charge of inciting to riot.

The report asserts the rioting might have been localized on Belle Isle avoiding the deaths, 98 per cent of the injuries and 95 per cent of the property damage if Tipton had not incited a gathering of Negroes in a social club five miles from Belle Isle.

At Mackinac Island Governor Kelly also received today a report from Dr. C. F. Ramsey, of the State Social Welfare Department, on interviews with 340 persons arrested in the race riots.

Salaries Averaged $54.

The persons interviewed, the Ramsey report said, were not recent migrants to Detroit; 74 per cent have resided in Detroit five years or more. Most of the men had steady employment, two-thirds in industry doing war work, salaries averaging $54 a week.

Forty-five per cent of the men were married, nearly 40 per cent had attended high school, the report said. Approximately 25 per cent were considered illiterate. Eighteen per cent had been rejected for military service.

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

Cowards Make Mobs, Says Kansas White

The recent riot in Detroit, Mich. will stand out as one of the most disgraceful actions [illegible] this generation. When mobs form no sense of justice is manifested, and one Negro looks to a crazed mob the same as the other. As you will notice in all the pictures pertaining to that riot, which have appeared in our leading magazines, even the best class of Negroes in that city who owned their homes, paid their taxes and were honorable, upright citizens, they too were beaten nearly to death. A mob like that should have been stopped before it got to that point, even if drastic means were used.

A similar mob some years ago did the same thing in East St. Louis, Ill. I interviewed many of them and wrote several articles on that riot and the heart-rending experiences of some of those fine Negro families were indeed pitiful. How well some of our older citizens will remember when the gallant 9th Cavalry and 24th Infantry went to the rescue of Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders when they were surrounded by the Dons and outnumbered five to one on San Juan Hill, Cuba, and how he honored those brave boys by placing them at the head of the inaugural parade.

Some of those Negroes at Detroit had fought bravely in World War I, and many no doubt have sons fighting now in the war around the globe. How do you readers think they feel about our free country as they read of the riot in Detroit? That certainly is not very conducive to the morale and welfare of those soldiers away out there, is it?

I am a white man but I take this attitude and write this article in defense of the Negro solely for the reason that it might help to have the law more fully enforced against mob violence. I have witnessed several riots and mob violence and found they were started by cowards. They put me in mind of the gangs of Frisco — down in the bay district was a gang and another on the Barbary Coast. At the foot of Market another gang held forth. Generally their victims were the soldiers and marines. If there were 20 to five of us soldiers they would fight, but let one of us meet just one of the gang and there would be no fight. That's why I say cowards make gangs and gangs make mobs. — William H. Owen, Leavenworth, Kans.

From the Readers

Second-class Death

PM
New York, N. Y.

Dear Editor:

News [illegible] the recent riots in Detroit and of that fine display of American democracy for which we are supposed to be fighting. Hitler's Storm Troopers couldn't have done a better job than those Detroit "whites."

I wonder how those new Negro aviators, who, we read, are leading attacks against Mussolini's Fascists in our P-40s, feel when they read about the treatment given their brothers in Detroit? What a pity it is to die as second-class citizens. To die in a flaming plane for the benefit of a bunch of mugs who push them around back home.

Detroit's white hoodlums make me ashamed I'm a member of the same race, and my buddies want to know why they're not in the service if they want to fight so much.

JOHN MCELROY
Dutch Harbor, Alaska

* * *

Have just finished reading your accounts of the Detroit race riots. It has [illegible] me sick with horror and shame.

When will our professors in their ivory towers realize that democracy is not just an idea existing in a world of ideas. Democracy is a manner of living, which has not been able to pursue its evolutionary way because of its conflict with the fascist way of life. The millions of dead all over the world testify to the violence of the conflict.

Why do we consider it more important to destroy the fascists of Europe and Japan than the ones at home? What will shake us out of our indifference and apathy toward this situation?

What an insane spectacle we are making of ourselves by our persecution of liberals in Government posts and by our indifference to fascist violence in our midst. Death to fascism wherever it rears its ugly head.

Somewhere Overseas

LT. ESTHER L. SLUTZ
Army Nurse Corps

Detroit Asks FDR Riot-Aid

Troops Constantly Ready, Early Assures Mayor

New York, N. Y. PM
Special Correspondence

DETROIT, Aug. 5.—Gov. Harry F. Kelly disclosed yesterday that he had called on the White House for assistance in preventing any recurrence of race rioting in Detroit.

After a telephone conversation with Stephen T. Early, Presidential secretary, Gov. Kelly announced that U. S. troops could be brought into Detroit "in a matter of minutes" if needed.

"Mr. Early has advised me," he said, "that the Presidential proclamation of June 21, making Federal troops in this area available without further word from Washington, has not been revoked and remains in full force and effect.

"To confirm this fact Mr. Early has conferred with the War Dept. and requested them to so instruct the Commanding General of the Sixth Service Command in Chicago and the Commanding Officer, District One, Sixth Service Command, Detroit."

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Detroit '39-'43

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Looking over my scrap book I found an interesting news item which I think has some value now in connection with the recent Detroit attack against the Negro people.

In Detroit, Nov. 10, 1939, Foster spoke at the "Finnish Hall commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the Russian revolution," to an overflow crowd.

When the meeting was over, close to a thousand members of a mob who gathered outside and beat up many of the people attending this meeting.

Later, Foster made a statement saying "the police department could have prevented the attack."

This shameful affair was a reflection of the spirit created by the notorious fascist agitators, Father Coughlin, Reverend Gerald L. K. Smith and Rev. Norris."

It was pointed out by Detroit Rev. Bollen, that "History shows that if we allow a violent mob to attack one minority it will next attack other groups."

If action had been taken in 1939 the events in 1943 would never have taken place. We must have action now or a bigger riot will occur.

A. STONE.

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

SOLDIERS SEEKING WEAPONS FOR DETROIT RIOT GET LONG PRISON TERMS

Fort Custer, Mich (ANP)—Long prison terms at hard labor were the sentences given three soldiers accused of attempting to break into a post supply room to get weapons for the Detroit race riot June 21.

A war department reviewing board rescinded the 15 year sentence of a fourth soldier, Pvt. Herman George of Detroit. George will be returned to active duty.

The board reduced from 18 to 10 years the sentence of S-Sgt. Lester Bowditch, Detroit, and from 15 to 3 years, the terms of Pvt. Ivory Williams, Buechel, Ky., and Pvt. Benjamin Stinson, Jr., Orange, N. J.

The three will be dishonorably discharged from the armed forces.

Dickstein Blames Dies for KKK Riots

New York, N. Y. The Daily Worker

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

JUN 24 1943

WASHINGTON, June 23.—The Dies Committee must share responsibility for the Detroit riots because of its failure to carry out its legitimate function, it was charged on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

The charge was made by Congressman Samuel Dickstein, New York Democrat.

"Two years ago I asked the Dies Committee to investigate the Klan in Michigan," Congressman Dickstein said, "but nothing was done about it, although it seems that the committee has investigated about everything else."

Dickstein claimed that the Klan is now operating under the name of the Union Sons of America.

"The riots in Michigan must be a great comfort to the Nazi government and Axis countries," he added.

Representative Joe Starnes of Alabama, ranking Democratic member of the Dies Committee, made a feeble and rather ludicrous attempt to answer Dickstein. He protested that the Committee had "properly investigated" the Klan and found that it had less than 10,000 paid members in the United States.

Starnes said nothing, of course about the numerous organizations through which the Klan operates as well as the many other subversive groups in Detroit, to which attention has ben repeatedly called in the past few years.

Starnes' figures on the strength of the Klan itself are also seriously questioned. His "defense" of the Dies Committee is looked upon as an outrageous attempt to cover up Klan activities.

Defeatist and pro-fascist elements in Congress seized the occasion to indulge in attacks on democracy and on the President's policies.

Representative John Rankin of Mississippi, wildest of the Negro-baiters in Congress, said that the only way Negroes and whites can live together "on the same soil" is on the basis of complete segregation.

He added that the "crazy policies" of the Fair Employment Practices Committee in trying to mix Negro and white was responsible for the trouble.

It is recalled here, however, that members of the FEPC have for many months been trying to get the agency to hold hearings in Detroit on the vicious policies of discrimination practiced there. The temporary eclipse of FEPC, following interference in its functioning by War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, prevented these hearings from being held.

There is a widespread feeling that had those hearings been held, some of the tenseness which Axis agents were able to manipulate to provoke the riot might have been relieved.

Detroit Riots Stir Bay State CIO

The Daily Worker

New York, N. Y.

(Special to the Daily worker)

JUN 24 1943

BOSTON, Mass., June 23.—Reacting to the outbreak in Detroit instigated by the fifth column, the Massachusetts State CIO today called an emergency conference of all labor, government agencies, church and social welfare groups, Negro and white, civic and fraternal groups and all citizens interested in preserving the nation's unity and democracy. The conference is to be held Monday June 27, at 12 noon, in the historic Parker House, Boston,

The CIO's statement laid the outbreak at the door of enemy agents, declaring: "To attempt to incite the white majority of our nation against our fellow citizens with a black skin is a typical Hitler tactic."

Pointing to the danger to the war effort, the statement further warns all CIO members to be on guard against all false rumors and provocations.

Other labor organizations, in line with this, are taking action, emergency wires were dispatched by the state ofice of the United Electrica Workers, which has locals. In several locals of the ship yard workers of the CIO preparations were under way to issue special statements to the tens of thousands of shipbuilders, many of whom are Negro workers.

The same kind of action is being taken by the Building Service Workers of the AFL, among whom are many Negro workers.

Today's Boston press carries a statement by Otis A. Hood, State chairman of the Communist Party, who declared: "The fascist fifth column in the United States through the outbreak of racial violence in Detroit has been able to score a victory second only to the insurrection started by John L. Lewis." Six thousand leaflets will be distributed tonight.

WIRE FDR

Urging President Roosevelt to speak to the nation in the interests of national unity, the Laundry Workers Joint Board, affiliated with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, sent the following telegram to the President:

"Mr. President, as representatives of 30,000 white and Negro laundry workers, members of the Laundry Workers Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, we call upon you to speak to the nation as only you can, but speak you must today.

"We are confident the American people will be guided by your advice. Only your counsel can defeat the unbridled Axis - inspired both foreign and native-anti-Negro race antagonism which is running rampant leaving its shameful tragic spectre in Los Angeles, Beaumont, Texas, Newark, N. J., and this week in Detroit, Mich.

"We beg of you to speak now, in the best interest of the American people. Our husbands, sons, brothers and loved ones, white and Negro, alike, in far flung foreign lands are giving their lives to stamp out forever the cruela butchery practiced against Humanity by Hitler and the Japanese vandals.

"Regardless of cause or place these anti-Negro insurrections and growing racial tension between Negroes and whites bear all the earmarks of the anti-Semitic outrages that swept Europe leaving in their wake our present pools of human blood. To win the war against Hitler and Japan for the world, and close the protection of America against an 'American' brand of Hitlerism and Japanese imperialism certainly is not the meaning of the Four Freedoms.

"Mr. President, in this dark hour facing our country the American people await your message."

The statement was signed by Jack Kroll, manager; Noah C. A. Walter, Assistant Manager, and Louis Simon, Secretary-Treasurer.

Public Opinion Differs As To Causes Of Clash

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

AUG 7 1943

PRINCETON, N. J., Aug. 5 (ANP)—Americans differ in their opinion for causes underlying the riotous conflict that recently raged in Detroit resulting in the loss of life to 34 persons and inestimable property damage, according to a report issued last week by Dr. George Gallup, director, American Institute of Public Opinion.

In an effort to determine the reasons for racial disturbances from the man-on-the-street, Dr. Gallup said a corps of his trained investigators were placed throughout the country to put the question. "What do you think is the real cause of race riots such as Detroit has had?" He said no answers were suggested.

BLAME FLOATERS

A very high percentage of Detroit residents, said the investigator, blamed the flareup on "floaters and drifters" attracted to the city by war work and hand-some wages. He said they laid stress on the large influx of Southerners to the town and the lack of segregation both in the city and factories.

Others said "young hoodlums" of both races were responsible plus the "fast living" typical of big cities and inadequate housing facilities. Some of the comments of Detroiters were:

SCUM OF THE COUNTRY

"I think they've got the scum of the country here and neither likes the smell of the other . . . Mrs. Roosevelt is partly to blame because she backs up the colored race all over the South . . . Straight hoodlums in both races . . . Factory jobs put too many Negroes too close to whites, and whites don't like it . . . Beer garden stay open too late; it's the young people . . . Detroit's a fast town; whites the jitters . . . Too many floaters from the South caused the riots, not the people from Detroit."

According to majority opinion from below the Mason-Dixon line, lack of segregation in Detroit is expressly the reason for race animosity, reported Dr. Gallup's survey. Labor leaders and politicians were also included in placing responsibility. Other Southern whites stated that "the North doesn't understand the Negro" and makes a mistake "trying to put

To this recitation of the most obvious facts, the report added a harsh indictment: prime responsibility for the riot lay at the door of the Negro leaders and the Negro press. Said the report: "Perhaps the most significant factor in Detroit is the positive exhortation of the city's bumbling, do-nothington by many so-called Negro leaders to wash administration and incompetent policebe militant in the struggle for racial equality. . . . [illegible] Negro newspapers reap- force.

▲ The riot was not planned; was not repeatedly charge that [illegible] no more und, inspired by enemy agents; resulted from democracy here than in Hitler's Europe that smoldering racial tension. It was touched or in Japan . . . the obvious purpose of gan's off by a rumor that a Negro woman and which is to drive home to Negro readers week, her child had been killed. "Irresponsible" the alleged fact of their servitude and to had white and Negro youths caused most of arouse a belligerent reaction."

roit's the casualties and property damage. The Negro press does indeed exploit

Whose Fault? Against this background, [illegible] a silence more ominous than sound.

On dirty, swarming, vice-infested Has- which was not too dissimilar from that tings Street a Negro shot a white man. of other war-crowded cities, Michigan's Ugly words were passed on streetcars and Governor Harry F. Kelly last week busses. Hoodlums of both races, part of issued the report of a committee he had the human flotsam tossed up by war, got set up to determine the causes of Detroit's

Time RACES

Chicago, Illinois

Dark Anniversary

Last week, 324 years after the coming of the first Negroes in Virginia,† the strings of U.S. racial tension were tauted and throbbing across the land. In iam-packed Detroit, where for 24 hours riot had raged (TIME, June 28), pent-up ill wise, frisking patrons for concealed weap- d Negroes was ons.

ensational race stories but these strictures merely made a bad situation worse. Editorialized the Detroit *Free Press:* "Wholly inadequate. . . . Every race and every minority group has its false leaders. This merely shakes the tree instead of getting at the roots." Said the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*: "The country has been informed of certain factors that Governor Kelly's committee hasn't deigned to mention: that the old, discredited Ku Klux Klan is operating in Detroit; that wartime industry has brought to the city numerous white workers from the South who have deep racial feelings; that housing conditions are bad; that Detroit is a fertile field for crackpots and agitators of all kinds, like the sinister Gerald L. K. Smith . . . that new employment opportunities, as well as the general ferment of ideas caused by the war, have given the Negroes greater economic power and greater ambitions. . . . It would have been far more wholesome if the committee . . . had addressed itself to the need for better housing, to an examination of Klan activities and to a study of the methods and purposes of agitators of the Gerald Smith type."

Whose Darkness? To the Negro, in & out of Detroit, the causes of present interracial conflict were clear. The Negro wants political and economic equality. These demands he now puts in the form of 1) equal opportunity in war jobs; 2) equal treatment in the armed forces; 3) equal legal and civic rights. Harlem's Roi Ottley, seven years a reporter for the *Amsterdam News*, summed up in his recently published *New World A-Coming:* "In a word, the Negro wants democracy." But nowhere was the way the Negro hopes to reach his goal clearly stated. Author Ottley, who shares most Negroes' belief that leadership must come from Franklin Roosevelt, confessed to a large uncertainty about the Negro's future.

That future was important to the future of all Americans. On the 324th anniversary of perhaps the most tragic event in American history, only the good will and good sense of both whites and Negroes, working together, could check the danger that threatened them. All Americans might well remember some of the wisest words ever written on the problem before them:

"But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

† To Jamestown, in August 1619.

TIME, AUGUST 23, 1943

AUG 23 1943

MOB PASSION SHOULD BE PUT DOWN

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

ONE of the darkest blots upon our wartime domestic history now has been heartened into a permanent stain, as the orgy in Detroit is ended. The immediate cause of the riot is still a mystery.

What is now important is the terrible revelation of the dark depths of fear and mistrust underlying the crowding and confusion which have characterized Detroit's chaotic expansion. Perhaps, left to themselves they may have sunk in time out of sight and presently out of mind. But they were fanned by every eager, ignorant hand that could throw a stone. White breeders of hatred and mistrust and hot-headed Negroes have done our race a cruel disservice in the affair.

JUL 1 1943

Both groups have done their utmost and now Detroit can count their success in her toll of dead and wounded. It is useless now to say that the whole outburst should be investigated and that the guilty should be brought to justice. No investigation in such affairs as this ever reveals what really happened and the guilty are never apprehended.

But if the cruel sight of such hatred running naked through the city—such sights of wounded and dead—can arouse America to a realization of how explosive are the tensions which can be stretched between human beings, perhaps the horror of Detroit will not be wholly in vain. Too many of our American citizens ignore both the tension and their possibilities until it is too late.

The Mayor of Detroit and the Governor of Michigan certainly should not have permitted a riot to continue for twenty-four hours before calling for Federal aid. The citizens and officials of all other states should resolve, that if ever they face another breakdown of law enforcement, troops must stifle it in the beginning, and not after an orgy of bloodshed and destruction.

The American Negro should realize with sick hearts that when any such trial of strength by force as was fomented in Detroit, it is always the Negro who loses—who is slain and beaten and embittered.

Detroit on Riot Night: 2 Scenes

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 24.—Tuesday night, several hundred people had rioted in Belle Isle Park under the leadership of the hoodlums known as the Kirby Street Gang. Although police and the Army finally broke it up, none of the leaders were arrested. On Wednesday this gang, distinguished by white handkerchiefs wrapped around their heads, went back.

Across the street from the park stands Northwestern High School. It was graduation night for 290 pupils. Twenty-seven of these were Negroes. Between the mob and the school, soldiers with bayonets patrolled the territory augmented by some 80 members of the police force.

But between the school and Perrien Park where the hoodlums had congregated, there were two worlds. While hatred and unbridled emotion reigned supreme among the mob, Negro and white congratulated each other in fraternal handclasp and friendship. Four years of close association and cooperation had stablished comradeship that no anti-Negro riot could erase.

In the calm and quiet of the auditorium, Negro and white received their diplomas from the principal. Many of them were going to enter the Army to fight together for a better world.

As the ceremonies ended, before the 10 P.M. curfew. Negro and white students came out together. They walked together to the cars of the street car stop: testimony that the angry, violent mob, lusting for blood, had nothing in common with decent citizenship.

With bayonets poised, the Army protected the students as they left for home—and left high school to fight as real Americans against fascism at home and abroad.

JUN 25 1943

Governor Kelly appointed Hon. Charles Mahoney of Detroit, who is a member of the Michigan Labor Commission, to receive all complaints concerning the riot.

Thurgood Marshall has worked closely with Mahoney and all complaints coming in have been investigated and the material turned over to Mahoney, to be referred to the Governor.

Working with the Wolverine Bar Ass'n and the legal staff of the Detroit branch several worthy cases have been taken of the beginning of the white riot-innocent young people who were identified by pictures began following the trial and sentenced to Thursday following to 90 days. Motions for new trials have been made on the ground that they were held incommunicado and were not permitted to contact either family or lawyers before they were tried. This, it is claimed, is a denial of due process of the law.

Atlanta Daily World

THE DETROIT RIOT

With the arrival of the troops in Detroit the race riots which had brought deep disgrace upon that community came to an abrupt end. Perhaps it is not merely wishful thinking that prompts the hope that the blood-letting in Detroit will have served to release the emotional tension that in recent weeks has brought race conflict to Los Angeles, Mobile, Beaumont, Texas, and Philadelphia as well as Detroit. We may hope so, but there must be no relaxation of vigilance on the part of police and local authorities to prevent mobs from forming. It is far easier to disperse a crowd before it has gathered the strength and confidence that comes with numbers than it is to quell a riot.

The punishment of the ringleaders, if they can be found, would be wholesome. Certainly those persons whose participation in the disorders can be proved from photographs should be prosecuted.

An important lesson can be drawn by the American people from this ugly incident: If we cannot maintain an enduring peace in this country between races whose members have lived in the same communities, recognizing the same laws and customs for many decades what chance is there for an amicable future if America is tied in an organic union with other countries whose peoples know nothing about our language and our institutions? The rash enthusiasts who are confident that Americans can work in unbroken friendship with Tartars, Bushmen, Chinese, and Hindus have something to learn from the incidents in Detroit and Los Angeles.

Over the years since the Civil war, despite occasional acts of violence, the relations between the races in America have improved but we still have far to go before

JUL 1 1943

Governor Of Michigan Receives Riot Report

Philadelphia Tribune

DETROIT, Mich.—Informa[tion] were presented to Governor Kel[ly] arrest of some 600 riots [in] ing out of the NAACP investiga[tion] Marshall, NAACP special coun[sel, completed his report here on] July 7.

The investigation, which con[cluded] with the arrest of some [600] riots

Axis Agents Behind Detroit Riot, Says Michigan C. P.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.
(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 22.—The anti-Negro riots in Detroit must be "publicly branded for what they are —an Axis-inspired effort to wreck our war production," the State Committee of the Communist Party of Michigan declared here yesterday in a fighting statement to labor, the government and the public.

JUN 23 1943

The statement—distributed as a mimeographed leaflet in thousands of copies — pointed an accusing finger at the Ku Klux Klan organization in Detroit, and demanded that public authorities arrest the rioters and protect the Negro people from the fascist gangs.

The statement in part follows:

"Hitler's fifth-column has struck at the war effort of our arsenal of democracy.

"The anti-Negro riots are well planned and deliberately executed as part of a national effort by our enemies to halt war production, to create violence and death, to wreck the unity of the American people, to help fascism.

JUN 23 1943

"This fifth-column conspiracy is a menace to the unity and victory of our people.

"Every Detroiter must insistently demand that Attorney-General Biddle once and for all act upon the great amount of information given him in the past year as to the work and activities of Detroit's fifth-column, especially the Ku Klux Klan.

"The anti-Negro riots must be publicly branded for what they are —an Axis-inspired effort to wreck our war production. The Negro people must be exonerated from any implied responsibilities for these disorders. Once and for all these treasonous groups must be investigated, disbanded and punished with the full force of the law and full demand of the people of Detroit.

JUN 23 1943

"Smashing the fifth-column conspiracy is not the job of the Negro people alone. It is in the first place the primary responsibility of the white workers, their mighty unions and progressive organizations. Defense of the rights of the Negro people is the defense of America at war. All trade union organizations, officers, committeemen, stewards should take immediate steps to plan for the full protection of their Negro brothers, guarantee their security and ability to continue producing the sinews of war in the plants.

JUN 23 1943

"The Mayor must be called upon to arouse the deep patriotic spirit of the people for the protection of unity and the guarding of continued and maximum war production.

"Governor Kelly in behalf of the State of Michigan should immediately issue a proclamation guaranteeing the fullest security to our Negro citizens and mobilizing every means which the State of Michigan commands to put down the riots and punish the rioters to the full extent of the law.

Detroit Riot Scare Keeps Thousands Idle

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

DETROIT, June 22.—(AP)—Under orders to "load your guns and don't take anything from anybody," United States Army troops patrolled Detroit streets today, restoring calm to the great armament production center after 24 hours of racial conflict that brought death to 28 persons and injuries of varying degree to at least 700 others.

JUN 23 1943

All but three of the dead were Negroes; of the injured, 74 remained in hospitals today, six of them policemen.

An estimated 1,300 persons were under arrest. Police officials said that about 85 per cent of them were Negroes, averaging in age around 21.

With the arrival of the Army troops the violence and looting that flared up in different sections of the city from early Monday morning until last midnight subsided.

Negroes Absent From Work.

Thousands of Negro factory workers stayed away from work. An office of war information survey indicated Negro factory absenteeism today ranged from 50 to 90 per cent.

JUN 23 1943

Cancellation were Sunday's Cleveland-Detroit baseball game and the day's horse racing program at the Michigan State Fair Grounds. Theaters were permitted to remain open only until 9:15 p. m. (eastern war time) and a curfew ordering all law-abiding citizens off the streets from 10 p. m. until 6 a. m. also continued in effect.

Governor Harry F. Kelly, who invoked these restrictions, announced that the troops would stay in the Detroit area indefinitely.

In recorder's court today 31 men and three women, all Negroes, convicted of disturbing the peace in yesterday's rioting, were sentenced to 90-day terms.

Troops Patrol Streets.

Sent into the area under a proclamation of President Roosevelt, the troops, in trucks and jeeps from which protruded muzzles of rifles and machine guns, patrolled the main streets and yesterday's battle sectors.

The troops were enforcing a limited form of military control. There were more than 1,000 of them on duty with as many more held in reserve in near-by Army posts. In the speedy jeeps and trucks they were available for quick movement to any affected area. Their equipment included armored cars and Red Cross unit.

Governor Kelly's state-of-emergency order covered Wayne county (Detroit) and adjoining Oakland and Macomb counties, where many of the metropolitan area's largest armament factories are located.

Military Is Subordinate.

The Army forces were under command of Brigadier General William E. Guthner of the Sixth Service Command. He explained that martial law had not been proclaimed and that the military was subordinate to the civil authority.

Police Lieutenant Albert Hartsig told of signs on some houses in the Negro area reading: "This is a colored home; do not break in." These homes, Hartsig said, were untouched, while others, which bore no placards, were wrecked and plundered.

JUN 23 1943

What led up to yesterday's clash still was debated today. A group of prominent Negro citizens, in a statement urging Negroes to refrain from spreading inflammatory rumors, charged it was Fifth-Column inspired.

John S. Bugas, head of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said he had no evidence that the riot was in any way planned or organized and that he did not believe any foreign power or Axis propaganda had any connection with it.

Philadelphia Lawyer Victim Of Rioters

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

DETROIT, Mich.—Detroit leads . . . but it is a leadership of which she will hardly be proud on sober reflection.

JUL 10 1943

The number of dead as the result of the recent disturbance is 36.

The unsavory title had been held for nearly 26 years by East St. Louis, Ill., where 33 were killed on July 2, 1917.

All seems quiet here. Whether it is a lull, or whether the riot has had a salutary effect is debatable.

JUL 10 1943

Mayor Edward Jeffries, Jr., has appointed a bi-racial committee to study causes and seek remedies.

The soldiers, brought in to quell the riot, were held over on the request of the committee over the July 4 holidays.

Authorities are reluctant to investigate the conduct of the police, but even the daily papers have been critical of the kind of enforcement of law and order which obtained—of the fact that most of those killed were shot by police, and the great majority of arrests were of colored people.

Demands for a thorough investigation by Federal authorities have been made by:

1. The president of the UWA-CIO, R. J. Thomas, who urged the creation of a special grand jury.

2. The NAACP, who urged a Federal Grand jury investigation of the Mayor, Detroit, the City police and the Michigan State Inspired.

JUL 10 1943

3. The National Negro Congress, which bitterly assailed Attorney General Biddle for failure to "act against the Ku Klux Klan and other fascist organizations responsible for the recent insurrection."

The ANP Washington correspondent reports that the suggestion that the President give one of his now famous "fireside chats" dealing specifically with the widespread sporadic racial outbreaks "has considerably disturbed the White House."

It is reported that "a welter of telegrams, letters and resolutions have added to the insistence that President Roosevelt give voice to his thoughts on the matter."

JUL 10 1943

Wendell Willkie, leader of the Republican party, in a radio talk over the NBC network, warned that the millions of our allies who differ from us in race and color "do not look upon America's race riots as mere internal disturbances in the United States."

Rather, he said, they regard these riots as "a sign of racial arrogance which will sooner or later affect our relations to them."

Church leaders of every religious faith have denounced the riots in no uncertain terms. Local churches observed a "Day of Humility." It has been suggested that a $100,000 fund be raised for broadcasts "to promote Christian tolerance and good will and to halt social strife and disorders on the home front." A similar plan was presented to the Bishops' Council of the AME Church in St. Louis, by Edgar Brown, of the National Negro Council.

Leaders of Jewry, who have decried the riots, are Rabbis Israel Goldstein, Hyman J. Schachtel, Joseph Zeitlin and William Rosenblum, of New York, and Aaron Decter, of Philadelphia.

The National Sunday School Union, meeting in Philadelphia, and BTU Congress, meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, appealed to the President to take steps to insure fair treatment for colored Americans.

There is general agreement on all sides that Congressman

JUL 10 1943

Martin Dies should not be here to make an investigation. Maceo Hubbard, of the Detroit Free Press editorially announced that Dies, seeking the candidacy would use this city's plight for himself, has been asked for protection for his usual trick."

JUL 10 1943

"This is no time," the Free Press continued, "for blab-mouthed emotionalism and political exhibitionism. The Philadelphia law firm of Raymond Pace Alexander and Alexander and their car when they were forced over to the curb and ordered out of the car by marauding whites. At about the same time, several police officers appeared on the scene and, being apparently it had dispersed the hoodlums.

Burke and Hubbard notified their offices immediately, and the Justice Department in turn was notified. Upon instruction from the latter, it is understood the two investigators were told to file their statements

'Don't Stab Us in Back,' Say Soldiers

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Tom Dombrowski
(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 25.—The boys who are preparing to fight and die for Democracy made their voices heard today in a dramatic letter to the Mayor of Detroit. Thirty white and 25 Negro soldiers from Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, characterized the rioting in Detroit as "stabs in our backs while we are fighting our national enemies."

They were appalled by the contempt for law and order by the mob which set American against American and disrupted war production. They were shocked that "Hitler's race propaganda is succeeding in organizing a Fifth Column in our rear while we are sweating to be trained for the conquest of world fascism.

The deep feeling for democracy and order was expressed in action in Detroit during the riot itself. There is the story of the sailor who appealed to a white mob which was marching on Monroe Ave. near Cadillac Square carrying a flag. He calmly took the flag away from the mob, stating he would not have it dishonored in that way.

Then there were two sailors who came to the rescue of a Negro who was being pursued by an angry mob at Cadillac Square and escorted him to safety. There are other incidents where soldiers and sailors intervened on behalf of the four freedoms, risking personal injury and harm at the hands of the rioters.

Nor did the 55 soldiers of Camp McCoy miss the significance of the role of John L. Lewis in this national conspiracy against the war effort. Speaking of lynchings, of the disgrace to the city of Detroit and of the mob rioting in Los Angeles, they also say, "We have read that John L. Lewis has closed the mines because he refuses to recognize the authority of the War Labor Board.

"What more could Hitler want?" they ask. The letter follows in full:

Tuesday, June 22,
Camp McCoy, Wis.

Mayor of the City of Detroit:

Your Honor: We know that you must have been as shocked as we to learn of the rioting that broke out between colored and white Americans in your city. We, however, were particularly appalled by the contempt for law and order because we feel that Hitler's race propaganda is succeeding in organizing a fifth column in our rear, while we are sweating to be trained as efficient soldiers for the conquest of world fascism.

"We feel there can be no excuse for any loyal American committing any act that may harm our war effort. We have read that in addition to setting American against American the contemptible molesters caused the closing of war industries. What more does Hitler desire?

"We have read that white Americans have gone on strike because colored Americans were given promotions; we have read that John L. Lewis has closed the mines because he refuses to recognize the authority of the War Labor Board; we have read about the lynchings in the South, 'zoot suit' mob rioting in Los Angeles, and now of this disgrace to the city of Detroit.

"Your honor, we, many of us residents of Detroit, here and now inform you that we consider all such actions as stabs in our backs while we are fighting our national enemies. We have left our wives, children, jobs and even our future to fight for the survival of freedom and democracy, for the rights of the common man, for the four freedoms.

"While we are fighting on the war fronts we have entrusted the home front to you who have remained behind. Of what use is it if we defeat world fascism, only to find that while we paid with our lives for democracy, the fascist rule of the mob has been established at home?

"How can we, white and colored soldiers, fight together in the trenches when our relatives at home are fighting among themselves?

"Therefore, Your Honor, we petition you to act immediately and vigorously to prevent any repetition of the past outrages. You and the leading citizens of Detroit, both white and colored; the ministers, school teachers, newspaper editors, labor leaders and radio commentators; know better than we the best steps to take, but no one knows better than we how urgent it is that such steps be taken at once."

HOW TO PREVENT RIOTS

New York Times

One hundred and thirty-eight good American names, representing many racial origins, religions, occupations and points of view, are signed to an appeal made public this week by Dr. William Allan Neilson, president emeritus of Smith College. The signers are deeply concerned over the situation which produced race riots in Detroit and other communities. Such riots, as they say, embody "many of the practices which have been associated with Nazi Ger[illegible] and her partner, the Japanese [illegible]pire." Unchecked, the tendencies which they represent "threaten the very foundation of the Republic itself."

Dr. Neilson's co[illegible]ttee is absolutely right. There could be no race riots if a good many citizens did not hold to the vicious doctrine of superior and inferior races. And there will be no American democracy if this contagion of ignorance, foolishness and fear ever infects a majority of us. Of course it won't ever do that. The danger is that a small nitwit minority will have its way at times and do great harm because the sane and well-meaning majority is also too busy going.

It is the obligation of the citizen to know what his principles are and to stand up for them. It is not sufficient to stand up for them after the rioting begins. They must be defended by words and acts in the round of everyday life. We have to have courage to rebuke intolerance when it shows itself. We have to have good-will and a sense of fair play ready for use in subways, elevators and factories, in the humdrum matters of daily life. Intolerance is always explicit and dramatic. Why not put a little drama into the role of being a good neighbor?

Detroit Councilman Risks His Future on Race Issue

PM
New York, N. Y.

By James A. Wechsler
PM's National Editor

DETROIT, Mich., July 29.—Risking his political future in this explosive, race-conscious city, a youthful member of Detroit's city council today challenged county and local officials who have resisted a grand jury probe of Detroit's race riot and have blamed Negroes and Negro organizations for the events of June 21.

The council member who spoke up amid general civic timidity and confusion was 28-year-old George C. Edwards, native of Texas and Southern Methodist graduate, who was elected to the council with labor backing and now divides his time between his city post and a job in a war plant.

Declaring that "the wild riot and murder of June 21 can happen again unless adequate steps are taken now," Edwards attacked Special Prosecutor William Dowling and Police Commissioner William T. Witherspoon for their "outburst of accusation and recrimination." They had accused the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People and the Negro press of fomenting the race conflict and had charged that Negroes were the chief "aggressors" in the race battle.

13 Unsolved Deaths

Pointing out that 13 of the 35 deaths in the June outbreak were still listed as "unsolved," Edwards said "I feel that all decent Detroiters would welcome a grand jury investigation in the belief that it would administer impartial justice and thorough punishment to the murderers of June 21, completely without regard to whether these criminals were Negro or white."

Edwards is the first municipal official to take a stand against Witherspoon and Dowling, whose utterances had been described by United Auto Worker President R. J. Thomas as "the greatest incitement to a race riot since the riot itself."

But Edwards' statement put the next move up to Mayor Edward Jeffries and the eight members of the city council. It was reported that Jeffries may disclose today whether he will ask for a grand jury or go along with Witherspoon and Dowling. This week's events have probably forced him to reach a decision.

A month ago Edwards proposed a moderate six-point program to the city council in the light of the race riot. He urged convening of a grand jury, addition of 200 police to the force, resquest for a full FBI investigation, opposition to any inquiry by Martin Dies, an official plea that Federal troops be kept on hand and appointment of a committee to seek funds for new housing.

Grand Jury Issue

The other members of the council opposed all these moves except the housing committee. Only the grand jury issue even came to a vote. It was rejected, 8 to 1, Edwards dissenting.

Neither Witherspoon nor Dowling shows any sign of retreating. Dowling reiterated yesterday that his forthcoming report to the governor will explain why he opposes a grand jury probe. Witherspoon told me that the investigation is "moving along." He said that he expected to be able to prosecute for some of the June 21 murders. But he declined to say when.

Churchmen Urge Punishment of Race Inciters

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

"No sense of shame is not enough," said the Rev. William B. Spofford, Editor of **The Witness**, weekly of the Episcopal Church, in a statement released today on the disgraceful events which happened in Detroit.

"Behind the riots there may very well be a conspiracy to weaken the war effort, and it is the clear duty of Church leaders to urge the authorities to take quick and vigorous action against the seditious instigators of the insurrection," he stated.

Saying that "there is evidence of collusion between Detroit police and anti-Negro mobsters," Protestant churchmen and citizens of Detroit are urged to demand of their Mayor a complete investigation with dismissals and punishments of guilty officers. Kenneth Leslie, editor of The Witness, warned that "definite Axis) from the moments (precious moments for the result of steps must be taken in all the city hand, namely the attack on the and the country to precipitate fortress Europe."

No Time For Debate, Time For Action Is Comment Of Nation's News Editors

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Editorial reaction from the daily papers throughout the country on the Detroit riots were as diverse as the many elements that make up the American population. While most of them appealed for strong government action to repress any further outbreaks, some took the occasion to stir up old hates and take pot shots at the Administration.

P.M., liberal New York nawspaper, said:

"There no longer is time for academic debate, for esoteric arguments as to how the cause of better race relations can be advanced for posterity, for quibbles as to the propriety of discussing such delicate matters in public.

"A few nights ago it might have been contended that the storm would subside, that isolated flare-ups would best be handled by the silent treatment. This claim has been shattered in the last few weeks.

"The President can clear the air. He can dispel the notion that we are a nation hopelessly divided and at the same time can cite the ultimate perils of these violent beginnings. The alternative is to let this creeping paralysis of racial warfare blanket our war effort, providing joy for the Axis radio and breeding despair among millions of Americans. We urge Mr. Roosevelt to challenge the hate-brigade in a statement to the American people."

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION:

"While FBI officials deny any evidence of enemy instigation of the riots in Detroit, the net result of that tragic outbreak is one more defeat for the nation in the war with the Axis.

"Maybe the FBI can't find evidence of enemy propaganda behind the Detroit troubles, but whether it was deliberately caused or not, every enemy sympathizer to say nothing of Berlin, Tokyo and Rome, must be chuckling in satisfaction over one more victory they have chalked up on the American home front."

NEW YORK POST:

"We don't know of any way to end race-rioting except to end discrimination against Negroes. Race rioting is merely discrimination in its most acute form. It is the hot bed end-product of years of cold discrimination. It is native fascism, which has climbed down from its platform, and up out of its ratty printing offices, and gone into the streets.

"We say the problem must be solved, and that it can be solved only in the way in which we are solving the problem of fascism in Europe, by force. We suggest:

"1. An immediate investigation by the FBI of Detroit, Beaumont, Mobile, El Paso and other scenes of disorder, into possible Axis instigation of these riots.

"2. As the quickest, best way to make it a Federal rap—We suggest immediate enactment of a National Service Act, under which all workers would be assigned to their tasks in the total war. Then let any man who dares to keep a Negro from his job understand that he is going to have a visit from Uncle Sam, for interfering with the operations of the statute.

"3. And then we need, bitterly, a bigger-than-ever domestic branch of the Office of War Information to rout the ignorance and misconception on which the devil of discrimination thrives."

THE DETROIT NEWS:

"It will be wise not to deceive ourselves about the possibility of a recurrence of race rioting after the Federal troops are withdrawn—if they are withdrawn.

"We must keep in mind the kind of people we have to deal with in this connection. They are half-baked, half-educated people—white and colored alike. An appeal to reason or patriotism directed to them will be quite futile under present circumstances.

"The bald truth is that we have here in Detroit a bad inter-racial situation. We should like it known, for the sake of Detroit's good name, that its worst ingredients are not long residents of this city.

"We hold, though saying it with feelings of shame, that Federal troops should be kept on Detroit streets until all violence has passed, and that hereafter a strong body of them should be held in readiness nearby for swift and stern use in case of need."

MINNEAPOLIS STAR-JOURNAL:

"There is something cancerous about such phenomena as the bloody race riots just witnessed in Detroit. To all sober-minded citizens they must suggest the presence of an evil growth which may, unless excised in time, destroy our whole American democracy.

"That growth is the spirit of intolerance seeking race against race, pitting violence against violence, denying fundamental concept of human freedom, and every basic right of man.

"This country can either work out its Negro problem in the spirit of tolerance and fair play, or it can work it out as the Detroit bully is doing it. The choice is between reason and brute force, between understanding and blind fury, between patience and mob hatred."

THE CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE:

"In the last few days the wires have brought reports of riots and disturbances in many sections of the country. Racial conflicts seem to account for most of these outbreaks, in localities as widely scattered as Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, Mobile and Beaumont.

"All over the country men of good will must devote attention to the problem. Clergymen of all faiths, we know, will preach against racial conflict. Newspapers will do their part. Public officials will be on the alert to prevent disorders. Leaders of all racial groups, white as well as colored, must counsel their people against provocative behavior. The danger can be averted if it is frankly faced.

"It would be helpful if, at this juncture, the President himself were to speak out."

JACKSON, MISS., DAILY NEWS:

"The Detroit riot is blood on your hands, Mrs. Eleanor oRosevelt.

"More than any other person, you are morally responsible for those race riots in Detroit where two dozen were killed and fully 500 injured in nearly a solid day of street fighting.

"You have been personally proclaiming and practicing social equality at the White House and wherever you go, Mrs. Roosevelt.

"In Detroit, a city noted for the growing impudence and insolence of its Negro population, an attempt was made to put your preachments into practice, Mrs. Roosevelt.

"Blood on your hand, Mrs. Roosevelt! And the damned spot won't wash out, either."

THE CHICAGO SUN:

"Certain practical steps can be taken to reduce some of the immediate causes of past rioting. To relieve overcrowding, both of white and Negro workers, there must be as much new war housing as the needs of war industries permit. Labor unions and management must educate white war workers in the elements of racial democracy. Local police must be alert to quell any outcropping of violence at its inception. Federal and local investigators should discover to what extent riots may have been inspired by Ku-Kluxers or other subversive agents."

THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER:

"Every American who has command of his intellectual faculties ought to know that the nation cannot take the Negro youth out of the country, put it in the Army, demand full service of every Negro in the name of patriotism, and then expect the Negro not to seek the economic justice, the fair play and the honorable opportunity for which he is supposed to fight. These things can and will be his without rioting or uprising which, in the end, must make his plight worse instead of better."

NEW YORK TIMES:

"The Detroit riots have smeared a dark blot on this country's good name at the very moment when it could be of the most assistance to the enemy, and at the very point where it could be most effective. Detroit, with its vast automotive industries, is the key city in our 'arsenal of democracy.' Now the news goes all over the world, to North Africa, among the dark-skinned and brown-skinned peoples of India and the South Pacific Islands, among the yellow-skinned peoples of Burma, Malaya, Indo-China, Thailand, China and Korea that black-skinned people are killing and being killed by white-skinned people in free America. These riots, and others resembling them in kind if not in magnitude, show that a certain fraction of our own people have reverted to the jungle.

"There is a job for the FBI in Detroit. There is also a job for a congressional committee or some other public body with powers of subpoena and with funds, patience and time to trace every underlying cause of this outbreak."

THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH:

"The rioting must not be considered a closed matter as soon as the last broken window pane is replaced and some of the rioters are sent to jail. An effort must be made to get at its real causes. Detroit's high wages have been a magnet for low-pay workers, white and black, especially from the hill farms and plantations of the South. Its boom-town characteristics put a seevre strain on the emotions of people who are all too rich in prejudice and poor, indeed, in self-discipline. Further, these conditions are ideal for those who make a business of fishing in troubled waters.

"A serious effort ought to be made, first of all, to arouse the full participation of these people. As far as war conditions permit, genuine grievances ought to be removed. More attention should be given to the temper of the Negroes. They, too, have their grievances. Since not a few of the Klan organizers have less than perfect police records, something might also be done about their all too frequent 'naturalization ceremonies.'"

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS:

"No matter how congestion and other economic evils may aggravate local conditions, any government fit to govern can preserve order and punish law violators. So far as we know, there never was a riot in any American city where the police work was strictly on the level, with no politics played in policing and law enforcement."

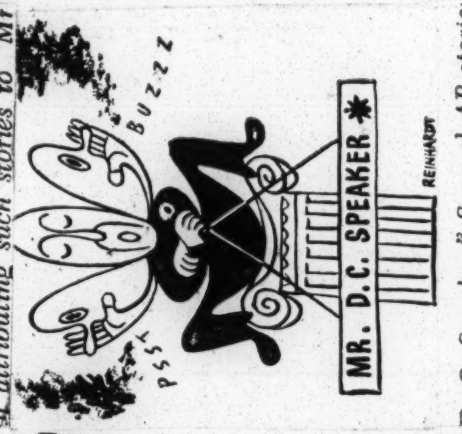
THE RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER:

"Forunately, this incident is isolated. It should remain isolated. All Americans of all races and all creeds have the same interest in this war. All other interests must be subordinated to that interest. Good Americans will make it their business to help to it that they are not only guiltless of any conduct which would impair relations between groups or races, but do everything in their power to discourage such conduct on the part of others.

"Reports from Detroit attribute the rioting to activities of the Ku Klux Klan. If that discredited and un-American organization is in fact responsible, its leaders should be dealt with summarily."

MEMPHIS' COMMERCIAL APPEAL:

"Verily, it is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and the Detroit riots, deplorable as they are, will have one beneficial effect: the labor pirates who have been circulating in the Mid-South luring farm labor so badly needed for the nation's food and feed production to the Northern industrial centers will find their work more difficult."



D. O. Speaker." Several AP stories have introduced Mr. Speaker, explaining that he's the well-known authoritative fellow and quoting him throughout. AP's Washington Bureau says it was Kent Cooper's idea.

Klan Didn't Start Detroit Riot; P.M. Says; Employers Rejoicing Against WLB

By James A. Wechsler
PM's National Editor

New York, N. Y.

WASHINGTON, July 8. – Despite headline hysterics in some newspapers, U. S. officials have still uncovered no evidence that the Ku Klux Klan or other night-matches into the powder-keg. But shirt groups provoked the Detroit race riots.

This is the report that has been brought back by Government representatives sent to the scene soon after the race conflict exploded. Emissaries of both the Justice Dept. and the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC) – whose chairman, Father Haas, went – have come back with the same story: There was no sign of organized fifth column activity behind the upheaval. Undoubtedly a Klan is operating in some Detroit neighborhoods, but the evidence is overwhelming that the riots were not the work of any subversive group.

Government officials show no sign of underestimating the problem. The view, however, is definitely that the arrest of some cowboy who carries a copy of *Mein Kampf* under his arm.

Administration officials are taking the view that any simple solution, such as the outlawing of the Klan or other Fascist" organizations, would be far more complex than

A new employer revolt against the War Labor Board (WLB) is quietly getting under way; Mr. John L. Lewis is the chief reason why the WLB hasn't done anything about it. Nearly two weeks have passed since U.S. Gypsum Corp. (led by Sewell Avery) openly defied a Board order to sign a maintenance-of-membership union contract. (*Such a contract requires an employe, after a given period of grace, to remain in good standing in the union for the duration of the contract, or lose his job.*) In pre-coal-strike days, the WLB would have promptly asked FDR to crack down. But Mr. Lewis is still refusing to sign a contract with the coal operators, as decreed by the Board; so far no steps have been taken to persuade him. Until that is cleared up WLB feels powerless to move against employers who are swiftly getting the point.

Meanwhile, the American Newspaper Publishers Association has sent a memo to all its members assuring them that under the Smith-Connally bill maintenance-of-membership is illegal. Six Newspaper Guild cases involving maintenance of membership are pending. This memo is expected to initiate a full-fledged press drive on the subject and WLB members are anticipating a series of court challenges to their authority. They think they will win—if the case of Mr. Lewis is settled. That's FDR's baby.

* * *

OPA Administrator Brown has offered Chester Bolles, Connecticut's OPA director, the job of OPA general manager—on condition that he share authority with Maxon. Bolles, who would be acceptable to both labor and industry on the basis of an impressive Connecticut record, rejected the bid because of the Maxon angle. Terms of Brown's offer indicated that Maxon is still solid with Brown, for reasons which most people can't fathom.

* * *

Fathers may as well stop reading newspaper stories about the "imminent draft of fathers." The truth is that General Hershey is telling the truth when he says he doesn't know what the timetable for the father-draft is. One reason, of course, is uncertainty over military calls in the next few months. But another, less publicized, reason is that Selective Service records are incomplete and inadequate; nobody in this town has a full overall picture of the supply of childless men still available. Incidentally, the influential Washington *Post* is waging a campaign against Hershey's ruling which doesn't recognize children born after September 15, 1942.

* * *

CIO officials, including Secretary James B. Carey and Legislative Representative Nathan Cowan, had a private session with House Majority Leader McCormack after recent New Deal defeats on the Hill. The CIO men talked sharply about the conduct of some Democratic Congressmen, told McCormack bluntly: "If the Republicans are the House majority we'll talk to them." McCormack is reported to have complained that FDR didn't tell in advance of the Smith-Connally veto.

CONGRESS PROBE OF RIOT IS SOUGHT

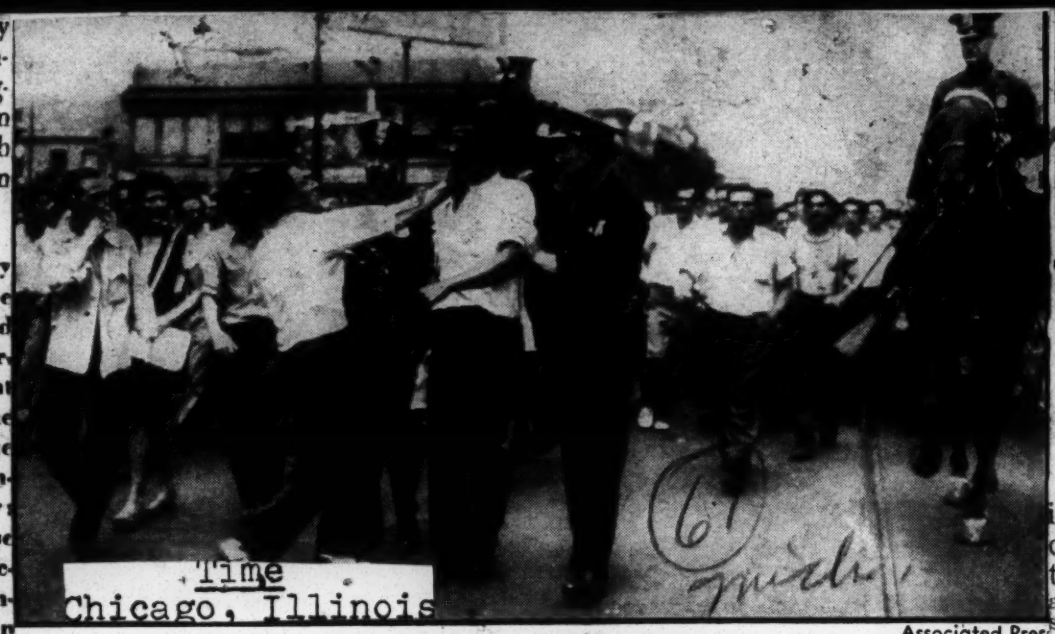
WASHINGTON, D.C., July 8—Representative Arthur C. Klein (Dem., N.Y.) introduced in the House last Friday, a resolution to investigate the causes of and forces behind the recent race riots which occurred in widely separated areas. The investigation would be conducted by a select committee of the House.

Speaking in support of his resolution, Mr. Klein expressed the opinion that recent riots "were not entirely spontaneous." Detroit, Los Angeles, Beaumont and Mobile were the cities in which the most recent and worst outbreaks occurred.

TO PROBE INSTIGATORS

Mr. Klein attributed the riots to "certain groups" that are interested in stirring up dissension in this country. "I think," he said, "that in Detroit it was the remnants of the Ku Klux Klan, the Gerald Smith followers, and other subversive forces that were responsible for the riots.

"It is vitally important, in my opinion," he added, "that we go into this question thoroughly, so that we can uncover the instigators, and thus prevent a recurrence in other cities."



Time
Chicago, Illinois

Associated Press

DETROIT POLICE & RIOTERS
The dynamite exploded.

RACES

Deep Trouble

On Detroit's lush, leafy Belle Isle, thousands of Negroes and whites nervously held their Sunday picnics under the trees. They had reason for nerves: rumors of race trouble poisoned the June air, the same rumors that have gripped the city for months. As the sweltering thousands jammed the bridge to the mainland on the way home, they were ripe for explosion.

A sudden fist fight touched it off, sent fighting, cursing whites and Negroes battling across the bridge, spilling through the city. Like wildfire, the rioting spread to "Paradise Valley," Detroit's downtown Negro section, washed over Woodward Avenue, Detroit's main street. Gangs of whites and Negroes roved the streets, smashing windows, tipping cars, looting stores, seizing guns and ammunition in pawnshops. Courageously Negro leaders toured the Valley in sound cars. But their pleas for peace were drowned by jeers.

With guns and tear gas, the vastly outnumbered police fought the mobs, roped off streets around the Valley, trying to keep Negroes in, whites out. But a few blocks from the city hall white mobs ambushed Negroes driving from war plants, beat and stripped them, tipped and burned their cars. Other mobs fired Negro homes. Long lines of beaten, slashed, wounded Detroiters jammed hospitals awaiting treatment. Thirteen elementary schools were closed. Many a decent citizen stayed at home, afraid to go outside.

State of Emergency. Frantic pleas brought Governor Harry F. Kelly flying home from the Governor's conference in Columbus, Ohio. He called out 1,000 state troops, rushed in 500 state police, asked Fort Custer for 1,000 military police, and decreed a "state of emergency" for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, which include and surround Detroit. Under the decree, all bars and restaurants were shut, a 10 p.m. curfew established. Still the rioting continued. Finally, after proclamation by Franklin Roosevelt ordering the rioters to disperse, Federal troops marched in, cleared the streets.

After 24 nightmarish hours, Detroit was quieted down, counted the toll of one of the worst riots in modern U.S. history: at least 23 dead, over 700 injured, over 600 jailed. Of the dead Negroes, police had shot at least eight.

By next day the city was searching for the real roots of the trouble. Detroit had been warned only two weeks ago by R. J. Thomas, U.A.W.-C.I.O. president, that the Ku Klux Klan was fomenting trouble. (Nearly a year ago LIFE had warned: "Detroit is Dynamite.")

In other parts of the nation, there was also deep trouble. The zoot-suit war between the U.S. sailors and the Mexican *pachucos* had apparently not been unique.

In Beaumont, Tex., 3,000 workers in the Pennsylvania Shipyard dropped their tools one night last week, marched on the city jail, seeking a Negro reportedly held there on a white woman's charge of rape. Finding the report false, the mob rioted in Beaumont's two Negro districts, finally wound up before the county courthouse. There they were met at the door by leathery, six-foot Sheriff Bill Richardson, a holstered .45 gun on his hip, a tommy gun cradled in his arm. To demands for "that nigger raper," Sheriff Richardson replied: "I haven't any such man. . . . Now get back to building ships where you ought to be." The crowd drifted away. Beaumont counted the riot toll: 1 dead white man; 1 dead Negro, 50 treated for injuries, 100 arrested.

HAS HITLER'S BOAST COME TRUE IN U.S.?

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS
(Staff Correspondent)

DETROIT, July 1—Following the tragic race riot in this city last week, Detroit and the entire nation are now asking: Has Hitler's threat to destroy the Allied Nations from within begun to come true?

Today every intelligent American realizes that the dreadful race riots that are now sweeping the nation have not just happened spontaneously. No matter what face-saving municipal authorities and fascist groups might contend to the contrary, victimized Negroes know certain absolute facts about the matter that cannot be denied.

DIXIE BIAS TO BLAME

The riot has been coming slowly, but surely, over a period of many months. No fuse was needed, the blaze did not have to be ignited. Spontaneous combustion was sufficient. The bringing into this area of thousands of prejudiced whites from Southern states for war work and allowing them to have their own way about what Negroes should or should not do has had its inevitable consequences. The aims of these prejudiced newcomers have been to Southernize Detroit so that it might reflect the same patterns of segregation and jim crowism as are reflected in most Southern communities. Those arrogant newcomers were born where prejudices have always flourished. They would rather lose their sons and daughters than their prejudices.

In the opinion of most Negro leaders Detroit has become a fertile field for cunning Axis agents who long have been planning for precisely the job that was done in Detroit last Monday and Tuesday, which has interfered with Detroit's all important work of making defense implements for the Allied Nations.

It is further believed that the Detroit police department, perhaps unconsciously, has become the nesting place of Axis agents. Be that as it may, the local police department definitely aided the white rioters in Detroit last week.

One need cite no better reference than a picture that appeared in the Detroit Free Press last Tuesday morning showing three policemen, who can easily be identified. One of the officers was on horseback; the other two were holding a lone helpless Negro whom they later arrested for "rioting." Those police officers neither arrested nor apprehended the members of the white mob that beat the Negro in their custody.

61-1943

Michigan

Detroit Shame Arouses Nation!

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

As the news of the Detroit riots unfolded with all of its barbaric, inhuman details, Americans from all walks of life—seeing the face of the enemy—rose in patriotic wrath to demand investigation of the instigators and their speedy punishment.

Mayor Stanley W. Church of New Rochelle branded the riot "an enemy action on the Home Front" and called upon the Federal, State and local governments to do "whatever is necessary to avoid similar disturbances in our midst."

"We cannot lose time in destroying the conditions that demoralize our people, disorganize our war production and comfort the enemy," he added.

The following persons and organizations, added their voices to the long list of Americans who have already sounded their protests:

Randel Toliver, Negro leader and acting vice-chairman of the Democratic Party in New Rochelle, N. Y.: "The riot is an outrageous thing. We are all Americans and should not fight one another."

Dr. Leon W. Scott, New Rochelle vice president of the N.A.A.C.P. of New York State: "If our government officials would act with foresight and in accordance with the fundamental principles on which this country was founded, we would have fewer such disgraceful outbreaks as Detroit."

Insurance Guild, UOPWA - CIO Local 22 in a telegram to the President: "Our Government must strike swiftly and hard. The only weapon left to Hitler in America is exactly that used in this campaign of hatred. Instigators of internal race warfare are the enemies of our nation no less than if they were actually wearing Axis uniforms."

Hunter College Sociology Students: In a report just concluded on the press handling of "mugging" stories: "Sensationalism and perverting the news by overemphasizing Negro crime news, seriously injures the war effort."

Industrial Insurance Agents Union, Local 30 UOPWA, CIO: Resolution adopted at membership meeting last night and sent to the President, Attorney General Biddle, Secretaries of War and Navy:

"Vigorously protest the violent race riots which have been organized and stirred up by anti-American elements in our country such as Ku Klux Klan, America Firster and Christian Fronters. We urge the President to immediately denounce those responsible by a statement to the nation that those responsible will be vigorously prosecuted."

Seamen's Club of the Communist Party, New York: "Our complacency with the local fascists has led to a domestic Pearl Harbor. Twenty-five murdered—production paralyzed—a shattering blow to national unity and morale. The government must give power to the Civilian Defense organizations to act as vigilance committees in their localities."

Bishop Thomas Gibson of the Gospel Tabernacle, Church of Christ and the Rev. C. M. Long of the Bethesda Baptist Church, both of New Rochelle, N. Y. also voiced their protests.

JUN 25 1943

Hearst Attempts To Incite Detroit 'Race Riots'

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Tom Dombrowski

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, June 15.—Detroit got a taste of Hearst journalism at its worst this week when Hearst's Detroit **Times** attempted to whip up race hatred by picturing an altercation between two Negroes and several white youth in Inkster, Michigan, Sunday, June 13, as a "riot." In lurid style it spoke of police investigating to determine "responsibility for nearly seven hours of rioting over a three quarter mile area in Inkster last night. Police estimated that more than 500 persons participated."

According to the story, 200 soldiers and 300 civilians were involved in the fighting. It spoke of tear gas and riot guns before the rioting was stopped.

The facts of the case are entered in the police docket and as told to the **Daily Worker** reporter by police and others interviewed are:

That 300 civilians and 200 soldiers were not involved in any riot;

That at most 250 people congregated at the scene of the fight between two Negro youth and several white youths and soldiers;

That the actual fighting had been limited to these few and that at no time had the crowd gotten out of control of the police, and

That the disturbance reported at 9:45 P. M., at the police station, was ended at 10:45 P. M., when the crowd was finally dispersed by police and military police from the Romulus Army Camp.

Inkster, a town of 8,500 people almost half Negro, is located on the outskirts of Detroit. Most of the people are employed in war industry. There have been no difficulties of a racial character in the past.

The fight started as two Negroes Emery Davis and Napoleon Reese stopped their car to let William Boswell, 19, and William Newman 22, cross the street. Instead the latter two, according to police under the influence of liquor, opened the doors of the car and dragged the two Negro youths out. As these two defended themselves, more than adequately the rowdies called upon several soldiers to help. By that time the police had arrived and stopped the fight.

The white youths were arrested for disorderly conduct, drunkenness and when they refused to go with the police, the charge of resisting arrest was added. Both have been involved previously in brawls and disturbances in the community according to one police officer. Then the police left.

When informed that the crowd has not disbanded the police with MP's called in from the army base in Romulus dispersed the crowd. The police entry signed by Chief L. Blossingham and his entire staff of Negro and white policemen, indicates that everything had returned to normal by 10:45 P. M.

Earlier in the evening, several Negro lads ranging from 6 to 16 years of age had reported to police that a car filled with white youths had atempted to sideswipe the group as it walked along the parkway. When they had protested, the youths had stopped and slapped and pummeled them.

In an effort to magnify the disturbance, the Hearst paper included a fight in a saloon which resulted in one man being cut with a knife, as part of the "riot." The police report that it had nothing to do with that disturbance.

Since the **Times** "riot" there have been no abnormal disturbances or difficulties in this quiet and peaceful community.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
August 4, 1943

Southern Italy?

Since the race riots in Detroit some days ago it has been popular with certain fuzzy-brains to ascribe the whole difficulty to "Southern riffraff." It is highly interesting, then, to watch the names of those being arrested from time to time for participating in attacks on negroes while the trouble was in progress. The most recent batch consisted of youngsters, the youngest 16 and the eldest 20. They readily confessed that they had shot down an unoffending negro man in cold blood. Their names are Aldo Trani, Armando Mastantuono, Robert Cattone and Anthony Saraceno. So it seems some of the trouble was caused by folks who trace their origins to Southern Italy if anywhere south. It is frequently convenient to try to shift blame for the faults and errors of one community by indicting another community, but it is never fair or accurate.

NAACP Protests Shooting Of Witherspoon

Daily World

DETROIT, Mich. (SNS)—The wanton shooting of Julian Witherspoon was protested by Dr. J. J. Mordecai Johnson, NAACP. Witherspoon who was shot by State Trooper Ted Anders as he ascended the steps of the YMCA was held police prisoner until Saturday. Atlanta.

The NAACP took the matter up with the Governor and was promised that Anders would be relieved from duty.

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Captain Donald Leonard, captain of the State Police, in a telephone call to Gloster B. Current, executive secretary, promised to order the release of Witherspoon from county jail.

The Association also investigated numerous incommunicado. One such report indicated that four hundred Negroes were being held on the second floor of the Wayne County Jail, with little or no food and sleeping on the floor. Upon NAACP investigation, these prisoners were removed to better quarters.

JUL 1 1943

Klan, Black Legion, Bund, Coughlin Started Long Ago

The Daily Worker-New York, N. Y.

By George Morris

Hitler didn't have to set up a fifth column in Detroit. It was there, well-established and operating in full conformity with Berlin requirements long before Pearl Harbor.

Detroit, the great automotive center, today the country's No. 1 arsenal, has been the concentration point of secret fascist movements since the days when Henry Ford's "Dearborn Independent" spouted anti-Semitic propaganda.

The poison weeds of fascism first took hold in the dung of a powerful Ku Klux Klan movement that made Detroit notorious in the twenties. At first it was a mechanical transfer of Ku Kluxism with the thousands of backward and mostly rural south-

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A court heard the cold-blooded story of how Negroes were killed for a "thrill." Silas Coleman, a Negro hod carrier, was abducted to a lake resort for no other purposes than to furnish "excitement" to a Black Legion party. His body was found in a swamp in May, 1935, a year later.

This writer recalls that it was on the very day that the newspapers broke the Black Legion story on May 22, that a hearing was held at

People of Detroit pieced together unexplained terror mysteries of the past and soon learned of the Black Legion's hand in them. The labor movement looked back on the list of its victims. The stories came out of how George Marchuk, the Communist secretary of the small Auto Workers Union, was murdered; how other forms of terrorism, were common in Detroit's life. It harmonized with the dismal atmosphere general-

UNIONISTS MURDERED

high quarters, counting among its adherents police and officials and financed by the Black Legion, the labor-baiting sources, the movement carried on for years of its victims. The mysterious murders, disappearances of men, ex-munist secretary of the other forms of terrorism, common in Detroit's John Bielck, organizer at the Hudson plant was taken for a ride.

Night-riding, mysterious disappearances and explosions and other terrorism, were common in Detroit's life. It harmonized with the dismal atmosphere generated by a great scandal in company-town atmosphere. The country was violently jarred on May 22 when newspapers blazoned out with headlines of the Black Legion murders, and the arrest of some 60 of the terrorists. For weeks afterward it was one horror story after another as confessions told of the Klan, killings and terror activities going back many years.

Supported in high places, the Klan, and Catholic fascism in Detroit in those days and red-baiting was added to program. Labor-baiting and its plants. The hooded order grew in membership and became a tremendous political power in the city. Its decline was largely stimulated by a great scandal in 1926.

BLACK LEGION TERROR

A few years later, a period of revival set in. But it was a movement

Detroit's City Council chamber or a wide demand from labor, Negro and other organizations, for removal of Police Commissioner Heinrich Picket because of the anti-Negro and anti-labor terror that he permitted to reign in the city.

POLICE BRUTALITY

Witness after witness told of police brutality in the Negro district. Negroes on their way home late evenings, they recounted, were often seized, beaten and arrested.

Later it was disclosed that policemen and officials were themselves heavily dosed with Black Legion influence. What could be expected if the Republican candidate for the Senate in 1932 and former Michigan Governor Wilber M. Brucker, addressed a Black Legion meeting and received its endorsement?

The exposures forced the Black Legion to change its forms but did not drive it out. With the fast growth of the United Automobile Workers and rapid transformation of the city to a live union center, the forces that sprouted from the KKK served reaction inside the labor movement.

The same ground upon which Klan and Black Legion grew also produced the Coughlin movement. Gerald L. K. Smith, Huey Long's lieutenant in Louisiana, also recognized that his "destiny" demanded he be in Detroit.

We come to the period when Hitler's program of conquest takes world-wide scope and again Detroit becomes the center. The Nazi Bund organization which was particularly active in that city soon established its common relation with all those outfits. Again the KKK was reestablished and even incorporated in Michigan. Klan factions were formed in locals of the United Automobile Workers. The trend in Detroit corresponded closely to what was shaping up nationally.

Late in September matters reached a point where Fritz Kuhn, Nazi Bund head, and Hiram W. Evans, who then headed the Klan, met at Chicago to talk of cooperation. They established friendly relations. In August, 1940 the two organizations cooperated in a joint meting at Camp Nordland, New Jersey.

Shortly afterward the Bund was suppressed. But it didn't make a bit of difference. The fifth column was working at full blast to Hitler's full satisfaction. **Anti-Negro incitement was its trump card.** Also those anti-labor groups suddenly took on a "militancy" on the labor movement and worked to provoke strikes and sabotage production.

JOHN L. LEWIS—ALLY

Coughlin had long ago perceived that the fifth column would find a common front with John L. Lewis and weeks before Pearl Harbor this pro-fascist ran a headline across the front page of his paper for support of the defeatist mine union head.

Soon Detroit witnessed such disgraceful samples of fifth column work as the stoppage at the Hudson plant when Negroes were hired. At the Packard plant where recently a five-day anti-Negro strike occurred, the Klan long ago had tried to seize control of the union. It met defeat in the union's election campaign early in 1942, but didn't give up its disruptive work.

All this trail of fifth column work has been no secret. At each disclosure local and federal authorities were called upon to prosecute the ringleaders. In February, 1942, these elements went as far as to organize a demonstration to prevent Negroes from occupying the Sojourner Truth houses. Attorney General Biddle went as far as to order a grand jury inquiry. But nothing came out of it. The pogrom against the Negro people this week is the pay-off.

Civic Group Helped Restore Detroit Order

The Daily Worker
(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT, June 25.—One of the most powerful factors which contributed to the restoration of order and helped to get war production near normal was the activity of the Citizens Committee composed of representatives of the most varied organizations and clubs. These include organized labor, churches, social clubs, fraternal societies and others, Negro and white.

New York, N. Y.

Radio speeches and leaflets, telegrams and delegations to Washington as well as the establishment of emergency information bureaus in the Negro areas and a defense committee have consumed the resources available. If the activity started is not to be curtailed it is essential that this committee receive moral and financial support of all individuals and organizations interested in winning the war. Officials of the Citizens Committee have asked that their expressions of solidarity and support as well as contributions should be sent to Reverend Charles H. Hill, care of Civil Rights Federation, 530 Insurance Exchange Building, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit 'Probers' Absolve 5th Column

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.
(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

DETROIT, June 25.—Governor Harry F. Kelly's "fact finding committee" today submitted a white wash report declaring there was no evidence that the anti-Negro riots were inspired and lauding the work of the police department, which killed at least 19 of the 23 Negroes who are today awaiting burial.

This was the type of report against which white and Negro civic leaders have been warning ever since Kelly's committee was appointed. It ignores completely the far-reaching fifth column network which it absolves from all responsibility for the worst anti-Negro riot in American history. It does this in face of documentary evidence that the Ku Klux Klan inspired the anti-Negro strike in the Packard plant only a month ago.

The report is not surprising because of the fact that the committee is made up of state and local officials who failed utterly to stop the riots which were halted only when President Roosevelt sent in troops.

Local civic leaders indicate that they will not be stopped by the report from demanding a thorough federal inquiry that will lead to the smashing of the entire fifth column.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE

The governor's committee consists of Herbert J. Rushton, state attorney general; William E. Dowling, Wayne County prosecuting attorney; Oscar Olander, state police commissioner, and John H. Witherspoon, Detroit police commissioner.

Witherspoon's police are widely accused of brutality against Negroes. At a meeting of the Detroit Citizens Committee today, Rev. Charles Hill, chairman, said of the investigating committee: "You can't expect people to find themselves guilty."

This "fact-finding" committee said it had consulted with the state police, the Detroit city police department, the FBI and Army and Navy intelligence and found "no evidence of any plan or plans, or any inspiration coming from enemy influence, or any other organized influence which brought about the recent rioting."

The Governor's committee also recommended: "that no grand jury be called at this time."

THE FACTS

The facts are that some 1,300 people were arrested, approximately 90 per cent of them Negroes picked up indiscriminately. They are now being rushed through Recorder's Court, without time to prepare defenses, consult lawyers or gather witnesses. The Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild protested this procedure to the judges of Recorder's Court today.

The committee comments weakly that the above-mentioned agencies will continue investigating, and that perhaps something will warrant calling a grand jury at a later date.

Civic leaders immediately saw the danger that the report will encourage the fifth column to really spread its wings. It is known that the Army is in no hurry to leave town, because many officers distrust the ability of the police. Further, the ring leaders of the conspiracy have not even been arrested.

It is felt that the committee's report increases the need for a thorough Federal inquiry, with Department of Justice agents assiged specifically to the task.

The committee's report also adds to the danger that the Dies Committee may come again to Detroit.

The city is up in arms against this danger.

MAYOR RESPONSIBLE

Mayor Eward J. Jeffries, Jr., who bears the brunt of responsibility for police tactics and who has been trembling all week with one eye on the approaching elections, nevertheless responded on this question to the feeling of the people today by declaring that Congressman Martin Dies "could do no good" by coming to Detroit.

He made the statement to a delegation of ten from the Citizens Committee, which came to protest both against Dies coming to town and against police conduct. Ironically, the protest against police conduct was made only a few hours before the report of the Governor's "fact-finding" committee.

The anti-Dies movement gained real momentum at a broad meeting sponsored last night by the Detroit Council of Churches.

Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, labor and Negro leaders were present at the meeting. President R. J. Thomas of the United Auto Workers had a personal representative present. There were also AFL representatives. The group declared Dies could could do "nothing helpful" by coming to Detroit.

IGNORED SUBVERSIVES

A writer in the **Detroit News** charged specifically this morning that when Dies came here on his 1938 witchhunt he ignored suggestions that the real subversive elements be investigated. The **Detroit Free Press** ran an editorial on Dies entitled: "Please Stay Away."

"He is not coming to Detroit to investigate anything," said the Free Press. "If he comes at all it will be merely to use this city's sorry plight to gain publicity for himself, his usual trick."

In what was obviously an effort to turn attention away from the real Klan and fifth column elements behind the conspiracy, Dies had announced in Washington that he was going to investigate "Japanese activity" among the Negroes. The Free Press struck hard at this statement.

"There have never," it said, "been over a half hundred Japanese in this community." The editorial concludes: "For the good of Detroit, the welfare of the nation and the progress of war production, we wish the Texan Don Quixote would plant the horse in somebody else's back yard.

The Citizens Committee attacked Dies just as vigorously, but it more correctly linked him to the fifth column movements. It declared he has "consistently ignored, shielded or abetted in one way or another the real fifth columnists."

BACK R. J. THOMAS

The meeting last night under the auspices of the Detroit Council of Churches adopted seven of the eight points in R. J. Thomas' program for combatting the instigators of the riots, beginning with a demand for a real Grand Jury investigation and appointment of a Negro prosecutor to assist in the prosecution. There was not a single Negro on Governor Kelly's Committee.

The meeting did not adopt the eighth point on Thomas' program, which called upon Mayor Jeffries to appoint a permanent inter-racial Committee. It was agreed that events since Thomas issued the program made it clear that Jeffries could not be relied upon to appoint such a committee. Instead, the meeting itself established an

DETROIT RIOTER FREED GUILTY

WASHINGTON—A Detroit rioter, positively identified by pictures taken during the riot, he was street fights escaped prosecution this week "because no complainants have appeared against him," although police preparing to

Washington, D. C.

Tribune

Investigation of Detroit Police Demanded!

NAACP DEFENDING JAILED NEGROES

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Detroit, Mich.—A state or a joint Federal and State investigation of the Detroit Police Department and of the administration of Mayor Edward J. Jeffries was asked of Governor Harry S. Kelly by a representative group of Detroit citizens this week at a conference arranged by the NAACP.

"THERE IS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE THAT THE RIOT COULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED AT ITS INCEPTION SUNDAY NIGHT HAD THE POLICE WANTED TO STOP IT," THE DELEGATION DECLARED. "SO INEFFICIENT" IS THE POLICE FORCE AND SO MANY OF ITS MEMBERS ARE FROM THE DEEP SOUTH WITH ALL THE ANTI-NEGRO PREJUDICES OF THE KU KLUX KLAN THAT THE TROUBLE MAY BREAK OUT ALL OVER AGAIN AS SOON AS THE TROOPS LEAVE," WAS THE BLUNT APPRAISAL GIVEN THE GOVERNOR.

Among the other immediate and long range issues discussed with the Governor were the wanton shooting by State Policeman Ted Anders of Julian Witherspoon, 26-year-old medical student in the St. Antoine Y. M. C. A. June 22, the alleged looting of homes and apartments of Negroes by state policemen, the critical food situation in the Negro areas on the east and north side, the wholly disproportionate arrests and convictions of alleged Negro rioters in contrast with white rioters, and the failure to use Negro soldiers, state troopers and city police. Specific methods of attack on each of these problems were worked out by the conferees.

Mayor Does Nothing

Investigation by the Federal government of the "nonfeasance, misfeasance and mal-feasance" of the Detroit police and Mayor Jeffries was asked by the NAACP. "The riots could have been stopped Sunday night with the firm use of force including a few fire hoses had the police of Detroit wanted it stopped," the Association declared. "Instead there is photographic and other evidence which is irrefutable that the police not only did nothing to prevent white rioters running wild but actually held Negro victims while white hoodlums beat them. Mayor Jeffries has been implored by white and Negro groups for more than a year to do his duty and check the vicious forces which infest Detroit but he has done nothing. The Fifth Column in Detroit has its headquarters in City Hall and Police Headquarters because it is weakness and prejudice there which has cost thirty-one lives, the destruction of property, tragic stoppage of the production of war supplies our fighting men overseas desperately need" the NAACP charged.

Walter White, arrived here by plane during the height of the rioting June 21 when asked by the Detroit Branch to assist in meeting the grave situation. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, reached here June 23 from Washington where he conferred Wednesday with Attorney - General Francis Biddle and other government officials regarding the riots in Detroit and other cities.

DENY DETROIT RIOT CLAIMS

Council Dodges Against Merchants Asking $500,000

New York, N. Y.

DETROIT, Aug. 23 (AP)—More than $500,000 in damage claims against the city, which East Side merchants said they suffered during the June 21 race riots, were denied by the City Council today.

The Council acted on the city attorney's finding that there was no liability under the City Charter. The East Side Merchants Association asked the damages on grounds of "inadequate" police protection.

New York Times

Eighty-two claims were filed. Business places in the Negro district, mostly owned by white persons, were looted and wrecked during the rioting.

Fear New Attacks in Detroit Whitewash

Daily Worker, New York City

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, July 13.—One of the deplorable and alarming aftermaths of the bloody anti-Negro riots which took 34 lives and saw hundreds injured and hospitalized, has been the veritable flood of "white papers" and statements issued by public officials and agencies whitewashing the fifth column of all criminal responsibility for the insurrection.

Prominent Negro and white leaders have indicated that such an approach can only give comfort and encouragement to those forces which are betraying the interests of our nation.

Efforts to place the blame on the Negro people and those progressive forces which have demanded a thorough investigation of the Klan, Gerald L. K. Smith and the various "racist" organizations spreading hatred and division are being made. The theory of "spontaneous and internal combustion" is being publicized as well as the interpretation voiced by Commissioner of Police John Witherspoon in which he places the blame on a band of juvenile delinquents looking for trouble.

EXPRESS ALARM

Progressive forces of Detroit have become alarmed over the statement issued in Washington by someone who "represents authentic and unquotable sources" who said that the FBI found little or no signs of enemy activity in the riots. He further asserted that G-men had learned that the varied groups which had demanded an investigation of subversive elements and had pointed their finger towards enemy activity were doing so to take suspicion off themselves.

Speaking about this deliberate and conscious attempt to shift the blame from the criminal instigators of the riots which caused a loss of 2,000,000 man hours on war production—from the KKK, Gerald L. K. Smith and some 18,000 former members of the Bund who were still around Detroit—the Michigan "Chronicle" leading Negro publication states in its July 10th issue that:

"Instead of fixing the blame on the Klan-minded elements in the country who are determined to crush the Negro, the blame is neatly shifted to those agencies which are seeking to extend democracy and make democracy work. This is a slick trick for a lame brain and a very dangerous one."

REPORT JEFFRIES SLANDER

It is reported that Mayor Jeffries had told a reporter that the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee was in part responsible for the riot implying that if the FEPC had not tried to outlaw discrimination the riots would not have taken place.

POINT OUT PLOT

Undeterred by these charges spokesmen for the Citizens Committee continue to point out that:

1. The organized character of these riots is evident from the period of the Sojourner Truth riot in which the three ringleaders indicted, Parker Sage, Garland Alderman and Virgil Chandler continue their anti-Negro agitation.

2. The organization of the KKK in the plants as exposed during the trial of one of its leaders in the Packard Local last year.

3. The whole series of strikes at the Dodge Truck plant, Hudson Arsenal, Vickers plant, Packard plant and other shops in the city.

4. The continued unhampered activity of Gerald L. K. Smith who spreads race-hatred and sabotages the war effort of our country.

5. The failure of the police to arrest any of the real ringleaders during the riots. This reporter pointed out to police during the riots, several of the leaders of the violence only to be ignored or laughed at.

6. The existence of a large Black Legion and Klan element on the police force as disclosed in the Black Legion trials.

7. The present rumor campaign of "another day of reckoning" in the Packard plant and others throughout the city.

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Demand Probe Now Of Detroit Riots!

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.
By T. JOHN WOOD

DETROIT (ANP)—Added impetus to demands for a grand jury investigation of causes and circumstances of the recent race riot, demands made by the Mayor's Interracial committee last week, when Prosecutor William E. Dowling said he would hesitate to heed unless the committee submits more "evidence," may come from organized labor, it was learned from reliable labor quarters this week.

A spokeman for the UAW-CIO said this week that the CIO is ready to push demands for action to come from the community grand jury investigation, and also submit much of the evidence Prosecutor Dowling said he was in need of, but, he added, the CIO is waiting for state to call a one-man grand jury investigation of the race riots which

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CIO Favors Investigation

An international representative of the UAW-CIO said that while the CIO favors a grand jury investigation, it is opposed to a one-man police grand jury can carry on an adequate investigation and get at the cause of the riot.

The CIO representative also said that only a 23-ity continued to pour in last week as evidence investigating the riot.

Asked if this would be another "white paper," Dowling declared, "My God, no. Its not going to be a white paper, a blue paper or a black paper—just a true statement of fact. I know what started this riot and I will tell the people all about it. A white paper is a defense. I need no defense."

Pressure from the CIO for a 23-man grand jury was expected to begin this week when R. J. Thomas returns here from his trip to Washington.

Mayor Opposed To Probe

It is believed here that Mayor Jeffries and Prosecutor Dowling are opposed to a grand jury investigation for the same reason, namely, that such an investigation would result further support to charges of one-man police laxity and brutality towards Negroes. Charges of police brutality in this is the Gestapo tactics in enforcing the law.

Meantime, Dowling declared that he would issue a statement of facts based on reports of the seven agencies investigating the riots, including army intelligence, police, the Detroit police and investigators from the attorney general's office.

DETROIT BRINGS CHEER TO THE HITLER HEART

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

By WILLIAM PICKENS

THE DETROIT RACE riot is grist for the enemy propaganda mill. It was not the "fist fight" between two foolish individuals, one white and one black, that caused that riot. It is a careless spark tossed into an open powder keg and a building is blown up by the explosion, it would be foolish to tell how a spark destroyed that building.

This riot has been in the making for some months or several years in Detroit—and the work was visible to all who wanted to look at it: antagonisms of blacks and whites about work in the war production plants, the Ford plant rivalries, the Packard plant troubles—and the failure of the leaders, both white and Negro, to emphasize the plain fact that we are at war and need to be more tolerant of each other than we have ever before been.

Black people stressing their rights and white people trying to maintain their prerogatives and advantages. On with the dance, and nobody stopped to say: "Rights are all right and prerogatives are all right, but this is not the time to stress them so much as to stress the need for cooperation in order to maintain both rights and prerogatives from the common enemy."

OVERLOOKED OBJECTIVE

In white meetings they said: "The Negroes are pressing forward, are too insistent upon equal treatment." In black meetings (I heard them) it was always said: "Now is the time for us to get our rights settled,—now is the time to make our situation perfect."

They both overlooked the biggest fact in the situation. That now is the time to lay less stress on the fight and the reasons for fight against each other, because both both of us have a far more important enemy facing us than either of us has in the other.

The most dangerous thing that ever faced the life of this republic is the axis enemy, and the worst enemy that the black race ever had in the history of the world is the Nazi race philosophy,—the present Hitler German. If this outstanding fact cannot get white and black into cooperation during this war the enemy can have at least a moment of hopeful fooling and of deceiving satisfaction.

NO EXPENSE TO ENEMY

I say DECEIVING SATISFACTION, for I cannot imagine that in the end white and black Americans are going to allow any domestic troubles t odestroy their country in the face of its present enemies. As I write, the report is that 28 Americans have been killed by Detroit rioters and nearly 1,000 injured, some seriously. That is better than the enemy has been able to do to us with much more expense to the enemy.—and this we did to ourselves without one penny of expense to the enemy. The enemy will make the most of this riot. Why not? We would do the same—if the riots were in enemy territory.

Of those that nave been killed, three are said to be white Americans and the rest colored Americans. We all know what is back of that proportion. The Great God is not always "on the side of the heaviest battalions", but the Great Devil always is on the side of the heaviest forces. That is the only reason I know why a smaller and less numerous and less organized people should be even more solicitous than a bigger people about maintaining the mutual peace.

GROWS LIKE FIRE

When a riot is set afoot it grows like a fire. The only way to "control" a riot is to prevent its ever starting. It must be controlled before it is born and not allowed to come to life. Many things will be said and done, written and spoken now by high and low of black and white, official and private,—which things, if they had been said months ago, would have prevented this riot.

Such a riot at such a time has not only killed upward of a score of our people and injured a thousand, but it has done violence to something that mends more slowly than broken and bruised bodies; it has injured the SPIRIT of both white and [illegible], especially in Detroit. We can only make up for that by working much overtime now to prevent any such recurrence during the rest of this war or at any succeeding time.

We can do preventive work now which ought to have been done long ago, and if we are diligent enough, we can actually turn this unfortunate thing to our advantage. The future, and matters pressing upon us even now, are important enough for us to do even that: to GAIN FROM THIS TERRIBLE SPIRITUAL DISASTER.

Riot Slapper Gets 30 Days

DETROIT.—(ANP)—He who slaps will himself be slapped.

This lesson was learned last week by the slapper, George Miller, 31, (white) who was forced to stand helpless while a judge in recorders court slapped a 90 day jail sentence on him.

George didn't like being slapped either from the expression on his face when the penalty was announced, but George it was who slapped and injured victim during the recent Detrorit race riots while two policemen held his arms pinned to his side.

Give—no Take

George can give it, but George can't take it.

Detective John H. Richard arrested Miller after photographs of the incident had been widely circulated and nation-wide criticism had fallen upon the local police force for its ineptitude during the disturbance.

President Issues Proclamation To Detroit Rioters

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

DETROIT, Mich. — Following an appeal by Governor Harry F. Kelly for federal troops, Presdient Roosevelt on Monday, in a formal proclamation called on Detroit race rioters to "disperse and retire peacably to their respective abodes and hereafter abandon said combinations and submit themselves to the laws and constituted authorities of said state."

The President's proclamation was issued after a series of wild disorders have taken the lives of 23 persons and injured more than 700 persons. More than 1,000 persons had been arrested when The Age went to press.

The racial strife was not unexpected because conditions here have steadily grown worse and there has been steadily mounting racial feeling.

Last year, Negroes, accepted for tenancy in a new federal housing project, had to fight prejudiced whites and be escorted by police when they attempted to move into the project.

Three weeks ago. white workers at the Packard Motor Company struck in protest against the upgrading of Negroes to assembly lines previously manned entirely by white crews. Thousands of man hours of work on essential war contracts were lost before production was resumed. The case is still in the hands of conciliators.

Two weeks ago, a group of some 125 white youths blockaded the entrance to Eastwood Amusement Park to prevent Negroes from entering. Police, called to the scene orderd Negroes to return to their homes.

Hot Pot Shots

Milton Bledsoe

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. From Detroit comes the news that since the bloody riots in which white stores in Paradise Valley, the Negro business area, were practically wrecked the Negro owned stores which were spared demolition are doing a land office business and that the long lines of customers formerly seen in markets owned by those of other nationalities are crowding into the Negro establishments.

None of us want race riots to stimulate business even in Negro owned stores. Yet none of us want war but we have it. Despite the loss of millions of human lives in World War No. 2 and the wave of hate that will linger long after the last shot is fired the civilized world will receive some benefit even if it is that all war is useless and that some other way to settle differences between nations should be tried out.

RIOT A WORLD TOPIC

So it can be in such bloody outbursts as a raging race riot that some good can be gleaned from it. The spotlighting of the brutality of white mobsters and police in Detroit has brought the plight of the Negro more vividly to America and the world than a thousand interracial meetings.

And it takes a racial conflict to teach Detroit Negroes that a Negro butcher can sell them meat and that a black druggist can administer to their sick needs.

Negro stores that in these boom times could hardly weather the storm and keep their doors open now find crowds beseiging their doors and dollars from Negro hands keeping the cash registers ringing.

Truly Negroes can be rightly termed the Children of Disaster. It took a global war to bring America to the point where they find out that a Negro can operate an airplane, sell goods behind a counter, receive and ship out merchandise and help to make the implements of war.

With money bulging in almost everybody's pockets but with lean days here and more ahead for consumer goods for civilians America discovers that Negroes can do more than serve meals, scrub floors and cook food in the navy.

SEE NEED OF NEGRO

With orders piling up for defense material that baffle even the gigantic mass production industry of America labor unions for the first time find that no one dies when rules are relaxed to permit Negroes into their organizations.

Throughout the nation and with the solid south excepted black men and women, boys and girls are in a position to improve themselves economically because we all face disaster if World War No. 2 is lost. This conflict should learn Negroes an invaluable lesson. One is that in a time of plenty prepare for lean days. In Detroit the Negro business people have as never before the opportunity to build business to a point that will amaze themselves when they have time to take inventory.

Millions of dollars only a small part of which Negroes formerly received in the form of wages can now be diverted into the channels of Negro management. These dollars can build up not Negro managed but Negro-owned enterprises.

CAN LEARN LESSON

And according to our informant Negroes in Detroit are finding that they are spending less money and getting more goods than heretofore and from Negro tradesmen.

Get this straight. We do not advocate race riots as a means of getting business for Negro firms. Negroes everywhere have within their power, without thinking of racial war in any sense, to start building some solid business places during these times when the Negro without a job is a rarity.

It may be that after all it will be the job of the Negro to salvage whatever he can from whatever misfortunes that befall him during the rush days of World War No. 2.

RETAIN TROOPS NEAR DETROIT TO KEEP PEACE

Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Probe Unlikely.

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 13 [Special]. Gov. Harry F. Kelly revealed today he had received personal assurance from President Roosevelt that federal troops would be kept available in the Detroit area to forestall any new outbreak of race rioting.

The governor also indicated, after a conference with two members of [illegible] fact finding [illegible] sion he ap- [illegible] Davis, head of the [illegible] eral staff corps, as- [illegible] eir assistance should [illegible] r disorders.

[illegible] asserted he felt the [illegible] ad perfected much [illegible] nobilization methods [illegible] and that army offi- [illegible] ent the state organ- [illegible] better condition to [illegible] policing in case of [illegible]

since the riots and [illegible] cials wer econfident t [illegible] to the direct p [illegible] of said [illegible] ization was in bette [illegible] from the President, he had received [illegible] provide efficient police [illegible] more efficient mobiliz [illegible]

State Troops Ready.

The governor said that in addi- [illegible] tion to the direct p [illegible] of said [illegible] ization was in bette [illegible] from the President, he had received [illegible] provide efficient police [illegible] more efficient mobiliz [illegible]

State Troops Ready.

The governor said that in addition

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What Else Could Have Been Expected?

Michigan's Governor, Harry F. Kelley's fact-finding commission has rendered its report on the cause for the Detroit riot. It states that Negro leaders and the Negro Press among other factors are to blame.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

The accusations are directed against "all types of Negroes, from teen-aged ruffians to Negro editors, civic leaders, and heads of local and national organizations."

The four-man commission denounces Negro protests against the American Red Cross "blood-banks" and explains this as a contributing cause. It blames the March-On-Washington Movement and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for inciting the riot. It takes Negro leaders to task because they hold up the Four Freedoms' ideal as aims to be attained for the Negro masses. It denounces the "Victory at Home and Victory Abroad" principle. And it reproduces in gleeful spirit Warren Brown's attack upon the Negro Press in its entirety, which appeared in the January issue of Readers' Digest, as causative of the Detroit disaster.

AUG 22 1943

The commission made no reference to the charges made by Prosectutor William E. Dowling that the Negro Press and Negro leaders cover up the sins of Negro law violators, because Mr. Dowling was the chairman of the group. It did not seek to explain how the Mayor of Detroit might have used his high office to have averted the riot, when by his own admission, he knew two years "that a riot was inevitable." It fails to account for Police Commissioner Witherspoon's acknowledgement to the Detroit Free Press that he instructed his men to "handle the people with kid gloves," a full year before the riot. And the Commission does not seek to satisfy the public's curiosity as to its findings and its recommendations about the 13 unsolved deaths among Negroes during the riot.

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No wonder Walter White says the report "solves nothing, further embitters Negroes, and destroys any lingering vestige of confidence in the law enforcement authorities." The plight of the Negro being slapped almost into insensibility by a white rioter, right in the arms of two white police cannot be explained away. The photographer wouldn't let that slip. Even Congressman Martin Dies couldn't have done a worse job. Thus, liberal Americans and interracialists, who had hoped that such a study might be useful as a basis upon which future disasters might be averted in other urban communities, can find nothing in the report of social value or worth.

Dowling's Retraction

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Under pressure, both from the whip-lash of public condemnation and from the legal proceedings instituted against him by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Detroit Prosecutor William E. Dowling denied the charges accredited to him placing the blame for the Detroit riot upon the shoulders of the Negro Press and the NAACP.

AUG 21 1943

In an interview last week, Mr. Dowling contends that he was misquoted, charges "the reporter took no notes," supposed "he wrote his story from memory," and ended by pleading for an understanding of his position.

Of course, the denial is not very reassuring. For when he requests in the same interview that the Negro Press and Negro leaders "stop protecting law violators", in spirit and intent, he expresses essentially the same charges in other words.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in bringing suit against Mr. Dowling, could hardly have taken any other position and yet maintain its integrity with its large membership and the general public. But, now that Mr. Dowling has retracted the charges, we hope, in the interest of public accord and harmony, it will decide to rescind the suit. For before the officials in Detroit lies a task which should not be obstructed by personality clashes and petty bickerings.

Report On Detroit's Riot

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

The fact-finding committee appointed by Governor Harry F. Kelly of Michigan has rendered its report on the recent lamentable Detroit riot, or pogrom.

The committee has found that the rioting grew out of disconnected violence and the circulation of false rumors, and was partly caused by irresponsible leadership flouting respect for law and order, and by inflammatory articles in the Negro press.

AUG 21 1943

It found that the riot, or pogrom, was not planned nor premediated; that it was not inspired by subversive enemy influence; that it was provoked by a group of young Negro hoodlums; that the rumor which started it was spread by a Negro, that 'Perhaps most significant in precipitating the racial tension existing in Detroit is the positive exhortation by many Negro leaders to be 'militant' in the struggle for racial equality."

This is just about what was to be expected from a committee consisting of the Wayne County Prosecutor, the State Attorney General, the Police Commissioner and the head of the State Police, all white and all law enforcement officers on the public payroll.

AUG 21 1943

What the report charges, in brief, is that Negroes were responsible parties and that the Negro press and Negro leaders must share the blame for what happened.

This reminds us of the charge that Finland threatened Russia, that Ethiopia threatened Italy, that Poland threatened Germany and that China threatened Japan; and that in each case these threats brought on armed conflict.

The report fails to dwell on widespread violation of AUG 21 1943 **Michigan's Civil Rights Act; fails to touch upon the real-tors' cabal which hems the Negro population into a ghetto, fails to mention efforts to prevent colored workers from being upgraded, fails to mention the Sojourner Truth housing riot, and fails to dwell upon the brutality and illegal acts of law enforcement agencies.**

No, Negro leaders and Negro newspapers are to blame for the colored state of mind, and Negro hoodlums are to blame for the bloodshed, rioting and looting. To accuse white leaders would be entirely wrong!

Apparently the riot pictures showing Negroes being beaten to death by white mobs, were "framed" by the Negro press in order AUG 21 1943 **to incite the blood-thirsty Negro mob!**

Michigan

One thing that has long galled Southerners is the national tendency to emphasize and harp upon every instance of racial friction in Dixie every example of brutality or injustice, as though it were something peculiar to this section.

AUG 25 1943

Anyone, white or black, who has lived his life in the South knows that for every cruel or unjust act between the races here, there have passed unnoticed by outsiders, thousand kindly deeds of good will in everyday life. It is on these latter things we should think, at this time when the agitator is abroad and nerves strained by war can say that handling of race relations in

everybody else.

DETROIT OUTBREAK

is talking nonsense; so does even

A committee appointed by the Governor of Michi-

gan has now studied the Detroit race riots and has come

to the extraordinary conclusion that the Negroes were

primarily to blame. This is reminiscent of old-fashioned

reports on railroad wrecks, which always blamed the

dead engineer. No doubt there were Negro hotheads

as well as white, but the main responsibility obviously

lies with the white community, which tolerated con-

ditions that were clearly leading to trouble. The Ne-

groes know that they always get the worst of such

trouble as there was in Detroit, and the great

majority of those killed were

Governor's committee is

Apparently, too, the Negro leaders advised over 30

Negroes to get themselves killed and over 500 to get

themselves wounded and over 1200 to get themselves ar-

rested just to make things look as badly as possible!

These fact (?)-finding committees can certainly dis-

cover some remarkable facts!

Who Caused the Detroit Riots?

...South has attained perfection, but great progress has undoubtedly been made despite and not because of the everlasting eternal lambasting from the angel chorus north of the Potomac and Ohio. It is too much, of course, to hope that even the ghastly example of Detroit may still that chorus, or cause it to change its tune so as to fit the beam in its own eye rather than the mote in that of the Southern sinner. At least the Detroit slaughter should make Alabamians, irrespective of race, glad that in Alabama, despite all efforts to paint a contrary picture, the spirit of kindliness and good will remains the dominant note in relations between the races.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

JUN 25 1943

Five Youths To Stand Trial For Part In Riots

AUG 27 1943

Detroit, Aug. 26—(ANP)— Because they were determined to "help the white people out" during the June 21 race riots here five youths were ordered held for trial last week. They are charged with the murder of Mose Kiska, 54, who was fired upon from an automobile while waiting to board a street car.

The accused, [illegible] 16, whom police said admitted firing the fatal shot; Armando Mastantuono, 20; Anthony Saraceno, 16; Ralph Taccardi, 20; and Robert Cattone, 17.

AUG 27 1943

Spy Arrests Bare Trail to Sabotage of Detroit Output

AUG 28 1943

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Tom Dombrowski
(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Aug. 27.—The glaring spotlight flashed upon the Nazi espionage ring in Detroit by the Federal authorities awakened America to the fact that this war production center which has earned the title of the "Arsenal of Democracy" was receiving the careful attention of Hitler.

The arrests of six spies entrusted with providing Hitler with the facts and details about war production came in the wake of [illegible] experienced in this country since the outbreak of the war—the anti-Negro insurrection which was quelled by several thousand troops patrolling the city.

These bloody riots, which brought shame to America, had been preceded by a whole series of anti-Negro strikes at the Dodge Truck Plant, the Hudson Arsenal, the Packard Motor Company, U. S. Rubber and other factories producing for the war.

LABOR ON ALERT

The revelation that Dr. Fred Thomas, charged with espionage, was a member and one of the largest contributors of the anti-Negro, fascist National Workers League, did not come as a surprise to alert and progressive union and civic leaders, who had been demanding an investigation of these organizations utilizing the Hitler acist techniques.

It is no coincidence that Parker age, founder of the National Workers League, should be getting oney from a Nazi spy for his work the war plants of Detroit. Nor it a coincidence that it was the ational Workers League, in co-operation with the Klan and other ex-subversive elements, that led to the outbreak of the riots at the Sojourner Truth projects when the Negroes started to move in.

Disclosed to the Daily Worker today was [illegible] that Parker Sage worked in the U. S. Rubber Company in 1939 and had held meetings with employes of the plant, inciting them against the Negroes. After union members called this to the attention of the company, and demanded his removal, he was fired. He was re-hired three months later on a job that did not require union membership. Again the union demanded his removal and the company acquiesced.

SAGE PLOTS STOPPAGES

Less than four months ago, the production was stopped by a strike in protest against the hirings of Negroes. At the present time increased activity is evident at the plant with the letters "KKK" being printed on the bulletin boards and other places in the plant and in renewed anti-Negro agitation. Union spokesmen state that it is only logical to assume that Parker Sage has not lost contact with the plant.

Following [illegible] race-ment by the [illegible] Committee that Dr. Thomas had urged the Ford Motor Company to hire Parker Sage, the Daily Worker informed its readers that Charles Dowling, who had been chairman of the National Workers League meetings and who spied upon progressive and liberal organizations, had been employed by Ford. A visit to the residence address brought the information that he had not lived there for almost three years, although mail still came to that address and only recently a relative had come to that address to see Dexter.

Other facts have come to the attention of the Daily Worker which show that the anti-Negro circles are fairly entrenched in industry. Officers of the United Sons of America are at the present time employed at the Ford Motor Company. President of the national organization is E. E. Maxie, employed at the River Rouge plant. Ward B. Long, president of the Michigan Chapter and former State representative of the Townsend Plan, is employed in the Personnel Department, while Treasurer George Mathes works at the Lincoln plant of the Ford Motor Company.

Shortly after the riots of June 21,

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a telephone call to David Cole's home elicited the information from Mrs. Cole, who spoke with a marked Southern drawl, that Charles Spare, Grand Dragon of the [illegible] in Michigan, and Harvey Ganson, lieutenant of Hoo[illegible] Martin, were the leaders of the United Sons of America and that lodge meetings were held in the Klan headquarters at 89 E. Forest.

Mrs. Cole volunteered her opinion on the riots, stating that "the N----rs deserved what they got" and that "you have to keep them in their place." She added that her husband had gone down to see what it was all about. She also indicated that some of the boys who worked with her husband belonged to the organization. There is no longer any doubt that a Grand Jury investigation would further expose the broad ramifications of the network of subversive organizations which have been closely linked by common membership with the German-American Bund and the spy ring.

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AUG 7 1943

Four Whites, One Negro Face Detroit Riot Charges

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

DETROIT, Mich.—Despite an early outburst by special prosecutor William Dowling placing the blame for the recent riots here squarely on the shoulders of Negro citizens, four teen aged white youths were arrested and face murder charges, he nounced this week. The murd charge grew out of a confession which the prosecutor announces they shot Moses Kiska, 58, down in cold blood with a rifle June 21. The warrants for the youths were signed by Judge John V. Brennan.

The youths involved are Aldo Trani, 16, Armendo Mastantuono, 20, Anthony Saraceno, 18, and Robert Cattone, 17.

One Negro, Leo Tipton was also arrested and will face charges of inciting a riot, Dowling said. Mr. Tipton is alleged to have seized a public address microphone at a gathering of 500 Negroes and shouted, "Every body come on; there is a riot at Belle Isle and they have killed a colored lady and her baby." Spreading of this false rumor shall, one of the

AUG 7 1943

NAACP Blamed

The NAACP was [illegible]ally charged with fomenting disorder between the races, the prosecutor contended in a statement last week, according to a story appearing in the Detroit Free Press by one of its reporters who was present when Attorney Dowling announces made the charge and placed the blame.

Dowling made his contention in defending his action when he vetoed a proposal by the Mayor's Committee on Interracial Peace for convening a grand jury to investigate the unexplained deaths" in the race riot June 21.

Other leading Detroit papers front paged the charges in follow up stories which brought Walter White, national secretary of the NAACP to Detroit immediately. Mr. White issued a statement to the effect that the prosecutor's charges were wholly unfounded and that the NAACP was ready to produce witnesses and affidavits to back up its report, which was prepared by Thurgood Marshall, one of the organization's

AUG 7 1943

New York, N. Y.

A HANDBILL urging the election of Edward A. Carey as Williamsmayor of Detroit explains the race riots thus: "The high are the prices charged by the Jewish merchants of Hastings and to race Antoine streets were responsible for the unrest we find nce the amongst the colored people. There is no reason why the ontend mayor of a large city should confine himself to local affairs Negro if his ideas will benefit the nation at large."

A Shocking, Un-American Report

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AN EDITORIAL

NOTHING more was to be expected from the so-called "Fact Finding Committee" appointed by Governor Kelly of Michigan than the shocking report on the Detroit racist riots which that body now makes public.

The character of the report was determined in advance by the composition of the committee. It is a committee named by a reactionary Republican governor and manned exclusively by the very police officials who displayed such a brutal and un-American attitude toward the victims of the riots, the Negro people.

These police officials of the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit have carried through a policy of crushing a people instead of making certain that the rights of these people are fully safeguarded. The police forces under their command shot and killed the long list of Negroes who were among the casualties to the fifth column in the big war production center. Judging by their record, such men may even be suspected with much good reason of being connected, directly or indirectly, with the fascist-minded anti-Negro gangs whom they whitewash in the disgraceful document which they have now released.

This report goes out of its way to exonerate the subversive Ku Klux Klan which has created such havoc in Detroit. It seeks to place the burden for the riots on the Negro people, who were its victims. The report is deaf, dumb and blind to the continuous injustice to the Negro people which goes on in Detroit—in the form of bad housing, job discrimination, and countless other Jim Crow abuses.

If allowed to stand, these "findings" will give new life to the fascist-minded everywhere throughout the country. They will stimulate in many other centers other than Detroit un-American propaganda and other un-American acts against the Negroes.

Detroit can learn not a little in this respect from New York. This is not due to the fact that there has been as yet any near-solution in New York to the problems connected with the denial of democratic rights to the Negroes. But it does lie in the correct approach taken recently in the Greater City, to the situation in Harlem. The cooperation of Mayor LaGuardia, the labor movement and the leaders of the Harlem community represented a gain for decency and democracy.

The whole country has an interest in Detroit and what takes place there. It is to be hoped that the labor and civic organizations in the big war production city will make themselves heard and felt at once on behalf of democratic measures there. It is certainly incumbent upon the American people everywhere to insist that the government act vigorously in Detroit, investigating thoroughly, unearthing and punishing the guilty and seeing that all federal laws for the protection of the Negro people and their rights are enforced. We can expect, and demand, that the FEPC and other like agencies work out a program which will push forward the battle against discrimination and the denial of democracy.

Leaders Urge Federal Grand Jury Probe

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y. (Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Aug. 14—Prosecutor William Dowling's report to Governor Kelly blaming the Negro people for the anti-Negro insurrection which took place here on June 30 is being vigorously attacked by progressive and labor leaders here.

Community spokesmen continue their demands for a federal Grand Jury investigation.

The report which is a complete whitewash of those responsible for the race riot drew this comment from Councilman Edwards. "It doesn't change one bit on the need for a Grand Jury. I still think we need a Grand Jury to investigate these foul murders and help restore public confidence."

Shelton Tappes, secretary of the Ford Local, UAW-CIO, said, that Dowling's report was not conducted on unbiased lines, that he has failed to investigate the real enemy and declares a Grand Jury investigation would reveal the real instigators.

The Michigan Chronicle, viciously attacked by Dowling, stated today, "The Committee makes no attempt to ferret out the anti-Negro and anti-Democratic forces which thrive here. We find nothing in the report to change our opinion on the necessity for a Grand Jury investigation."

DEMAND FEDERAL PROBE

The Civil Rights Federation, the National Lawyers Guild, Michigan Communist Party and many trade union leaders today reiterated their demand for a Federal Grand Jury investigation at once. The statement of the Communist Party demands the impeachment of Dowling as one too dangerous to be in a position where the security and peace of Detroit is concerned.

The 300-page report includes many maps and tables of statistics. It purports to be a statement of the events of June 20-21: a series of exhibits alleged to support it statistically form the "facts"; and a discussion of various factors which it claims contributed to the outbreak are also included.

Dowling claims the report was assisted by the FBI, the Army Intelligence, Naval Intelligence and combined investigating personnel of the State Attorney General, the State Police, Detroit Police Department and the Wayne County Prosecutors office.

STALE REHASH

The "report" introduces nothing new from facts already known and consists of a detailed and malicious effort to fix responsibility for the riots upon the Negro press, Negro organizations and Negro people. The report completely evades the complete breakdown of law and order by the Police Department, notorious partiality of the police in pursuing a "kid glove" instruction of the commissioner in dealing with the thousands of hoodlums and rioters, but creating a reign of bloodshed and terror it the Negro districts. Dowling's extensive report may be characterized as nothing less than a defense and protection of hoodlums and subversive rioters, a vicious and undemocratic attack upon the effort to eradicate discrimination, jim-crowism and Negro persecution, a defense of corrupt and shady public officials, a report which responsible Detroiters charge absolves the guilty and establishes full license for repeated and similar violations against the Negro people and the war effort.

After an extensive review of "facts" which charged the Negro people with guilt for the scattered origins of the trouble up to the citywide extension of rioting, the committee makes the six conclusions which every Detroiter knows is absolutely farcial.

1. The riot was not planned or premediated.

2. The riot was not inspired by subversive enemy influence.

3. The riot resulted from a smouldering racial tension which was inflamed as the result of several disconnected incidents upon Belle Isle, provoked by a group of Negroes.

4. The looting and rioting is due to the Negroes on account of a rumor that the whites had killed a colored woman and her child at Belle Isle and sent thousands of Negroes roaming through the streets.

5. Irresponsible white and Negro youths were responsible for most of the casualties and damage.

6. The ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far adequately and properly dealt with the law violators.

KKK LONG ACTIVE

On the contrary, every Detroiter knows that the enemy and subversive forces concentrated in Detroit of systematically organizing and carrying through anti-Negro actions as in the Sojourner Truth incident, Packard, Hudson, U. S. Rubber hate strikes, that the Klan, anti-Semites, other organizations are flourishing in Detroit, that Dowling has consistently refused to investigate them and even follow up documents and evidence submitted to him by R. J. [illegible], NAACP, Civil Rights Federation and other organizations. Everyone knows the clashes followed the long series of anti-Negro violations and set off by a hoodlum attack against young Negroes attempting to find recreation at Eastwood Park several days prior. To the claim that irresponsible white and Negro youth were responsible for most of the casualties, Dowling's own figures show that of the 34 deaths, 9 were white and 25 colored. Of the 25 Negroes killed 18 were shot by the police and are listed as "justifiable." As for the ordinary law enforcement agencies having had the situation in hand before the army arrived, every man and woman in Detroit knows that for 24 hours preceding the arrival of the troops and up to the very moment of their arrival, that hoodlums controlled the city, rioting was taking place even in front of City Hall, the police did not even brandish a weapon to the white rioters and that the rioters only melted away when the troops marched down the street at 10 P. M.

NAACP Investigation And Report Bring Action In Detroit Riot Case

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 14—Mayor Edward Jeffries' decision on July 30 to come out for a grand jury investigation of the Detroit riots here. The NAACP's July 30 telegram to the Mayor said: "We note with pleasure that you have come out for a grand jury investigation of the Detroit riot. We express our appreciation. The NAACP as the first hopeful gesture to be made by city officials in connection with the June 20-22 riots here. The NAACP's July 30 telegram was regarded this week by

The report, like the previous "White Papers" issued by him, by Police Commissioner Witherspoon by Mayor Jeffries and others, is another attempt to justify the intolerance role of the Prosecutor, Mayor, Police Department, whose incompetency in large part accounted for mob rule of Detroit for two days.

May we make the further suggestion that you lend the full weight of your office to the proposal made by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers-CIO, that a special prosecutor from outside of Detroit and possibly outside of Michigan be selected. May we further add suggestion that he be of such eminent stature and unimpeachable character that no person can suspect or accuse him of yielding to pressure of any sort. We further suggest that the Civil Rights committee of the American Bar association and the National Lawyers' Guild be asked to select this prosecutor. Finally, we urge you to insist that Prosecutor William E. Dowling recuse himself in any grand jury proceedings since the intemperance of his recent statements have cast into grave question his impartiality and fairness."

Report Presented to Mayor

In the face of Dowling's refusal to call a grand jury on the June rioting and his counterblast blaming the NAACP and Negro press for riot instigation, the NAACP had presented on July 28 its report on the riot to Mayor Jeffries and demanded that the mayor order a grand jury.

The prosecutor's refusal was made early last week and the charge against the NAACP was delivered Monday, July 26, before a subcommittee of the Mayor's Interracial committee.

Tenseness of the city was evident when Walter White, accompanied by a delegation, went to City Hall to present to Mayor Jeffries the NAACP statement of charges of acts by the Detroit police and others. With White were L. C. Blount, of Great Lakes Insurance Company and member of NAACP national board, Gloster Current, Detroit NAACP executive secretary, and Father Malcom Dade, pastor of St. Cyprian church.

The report is the result of an investigation by White who had flown to Detroit at the peak of the riots and of Thurgood Marshall, NAACP attorney who spent several weeks here following the outbreak.

Details of Report

Recalling the police handling of the Sojourner Truth disturbances as "typical of the one-sided law enforcement practiced by Detroit police," the NAACP report to the mayor stated that "white hoodlums were justified in their belief that the Detroit police would act the same way in any future disturbances."

Throughout the report, the N. A. A.C. P. offers evidence gathered by its own staff of investigators to support its charge that Detroit police "enforced the law under an unequal hand."

"They used 'persuasion' rather than firm action with white rioters while against Negroes they used the ultimate in force—night sticks, revolvers, riot guns, sub-machine guns and deer rifles," the NAACP charged.

Dowling, Witherspoon Asked to Prove Charge

The NAACP this week challenged Special Prosecutor William E. Dowling and Police Commissioner John Witherspoon to prove their charges (since partially retracted) that the association and the Negro press were instigators of the Detroit June riot that claimed the lives of 34 persons, 27 of whom were Negroes, and sent hundreds of injured to the hospitals.

In a telegram to Dowling, unanswered as of July 30, Walter White, NAACP secretary, wrote:

"You are quoted today by the Detroit Free Press and its quotation is confirmed by the Detroit News and by members of the mayor's bi-racial committee as saying to Rev. George W. Baber when he stated that evidence regarding rioting had been turned over to the NAACP. 'That is the whole trouble,' he shouted, 'You have no confidence in the law enforcement agencies, but turn your information over to a trouble-making organization like that! They have been fomenting trouble with their crusades in colored neighborhoods from the start.'

"'They sent in their thugs to start trouble in the Sojourner Truth situation, and then protected them when we tried to bring them to justice. They were the biggest instigators of the recent race riot, and if a grand jury is called they will be named in the first indictment!'

"Mr. Douglas Martin, managing editor of the Detroit Free Press, has just personally assured me that he queried the Free Press reporter who wrote the story, and this reporter affirms that you did make the statements quoted above. So that we may determine what action we shall take to protect the reputation of the association, we ask you to reply by telegram collect at 446 East Warren (Detroit NAACP office) if you were or were not correctly quoted."

The NAACP legal staff, headed by Special Council Thurgood Marshall, is examining Michigan libel law to determine what action can be taken against Dowling, Commissioner Witherspoon was asked by the NAACP in a telegram dated July 29, if he subscribed to the statement attributed to Mr. Dowling in the Detroit Free Press of July 27 that the NAACP had sent in thugs to start trouble in the Sojourner Truth Housing situation and that if a grand jury is called the NAACP will be named in the first indictment.

An indication of the way the wind is blowing in Detroit was furnished by a letter received in the national office from Gloster Current, executive secretary of the Detroit NAACP branch, dated July 29. Mr. Current stated that one of the affiants who gave testimony to Mr. Marshall "was in our office today and stated that detectives telephoned him to ascertain whether he planned to sue the city, and the grounds for such a suit. They asked him to come down as they wanted to speak to him," and proceeded to address him in terms to infer that he could expect to hear much more from the police department if he did not.

UAW Head Ridicules Charge

Dowling's charges drew bitter ridicule from R. J. Thomas, UAW-CIO president, who blasted the prosecutor's views as "the most serious incitation to race riots we have had since the riots themselves.

"They sound like a hysterical alibi of a public official who either cannot or will not do his duty," Thomas said.

To Dowling's charge that the NAACP is a trouble-making organization and had instigated the riots Thomas answered: "The N.A.A.C.P. is a trouble-making organization in the sense that any organization that protests against injustices is a trouble maker, in the sense that unions are trouble makers for unfair employers and in the same sense that those who believe in liberty are trouble makers for Hitler."

IUC Condemns Outburst

The executive board of the Greater Detroit and Wayne County Industrial Union Council (CIO) condemned "the irresponsible outburst of Dowling and in a resolution added:

"We feel that Mr. Dowling is adding insult to injury when he states that the Negro people are responsible in the face of 25 Negroes dead out of a total of 34. Mr. Dowling's outburst is worthy of Der Fuehrer himself and is a direct provocation which can only lead to inviting the klansmen and other such groups in the city to further rioting."

Local and county officials who joined Dowling and the police commissioner in requesting a grand jury probe were challenged by Councilman George C. Edwards, a native Texan elected to the council with labor backing. Edwards warned "the wild riot and murder of June 21 can happen again unless adequate steps are taken now."

Reports of Dowling's initial alleged assertions placing the stirring up of dissension on the NAACP won page one featuring in the daily press here. Stories under such headlines as "Officials Put Riot Blame on Negroes" and "Riot Started by Negroes Dowling Says," were given editorial support in the Detroit News and in the Detroit Times. The Free Press, the newspaper which gave the riots the widest picture coverage, continued to urge editorially that something be done to clean up the police department. Douglas Martin, Free Press managing editor, told the NAACP that his paper continuously suggested that the police do something about the white hoodlums who were still at large and were easily identified by action pictures of the riot.

Whit'es comment when confronted with Dowling's assertion upon his arrival here Tuesday morning was, "Dowling's intemperate outburst reveals one of the reasons for the riot—the miserable failure of law enforcement officials to do their job and then attempt to excuse their dereliction by blaming trouble on those who for years have pleaded with the laws being enforced."

DETROIT RIOT LAID TO FALSE RUMORS

New York Times

Members of Fact-Finding Group Report to Governor No Enemy Agents Were Involved

RACIAL AGITATION IS HIT

New York, N. Y.

Committee Quotes Statements in Negro Press—Solution of Social Problems Urged

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, Aug. 11—The Detroit race riots of June 20-21 were the result of a spontaneous explosion, resulting from smoldering racial tension and were not planned or instigated by enemy agents, it was stated today in a report issued by Gov. Harry F. Kelly's fact-finding committee.

The 8,500-word report said the rioting grew out of disconnected violence and the circulation of false rumors, and was partly caused by irresponsible leadership flouting respect for law and order and by inflammatory articles in the Negro press.

The committee was composed of William E. Dowling, Wayne County Prosecutor; Herbert J. Rushton State Attorney General; John H Witherspoon, Police Commissioner, and Oscar C. Olander, State Police head.

No Subversive Influence

The report presented the following conclusions:

1. The riot was not planned or premeditated.

2. The riot was not inspired by subversive enemy influence.

3. The riot resulted from smoldering racial tension which was inflammed as the result of several disconnected incidents in Belle Isle Park, provoked by a group of young Negro hoodlums.

4. The looting and accompanying rioting followed the spreading of a false rumor by Leo Tipton, Negro, to the effect that whites had killed a colored woman and her child at Belle Isle and thrown their bodies into the Detroit River. Tipton now is awaiting trial on charges of inciting to riot.

5. Irresponsible white and Negro youths did most of the casualties and damage.

6. The ordinary law enforcement and judicial agencies have thus far dealth adequately and properly with the law violators.

"Perhaps most significant in precipitating the racial tension existing in Detroit is the positive exhortation by many Negro leaders to be 'militant' in the struggle for racial equality," the report said.

Negro Press Statement Cited

A statement by a Negro writer in a Negro newspaper, The Detroit Tribune, was cited by the committee as a clearly intended "appeal to extract 'justice' by violence."

"Such appeals unfortunately have been commonplace in the Negro newspapers; can it be doubted that they played an important part in exciting the Negro people to the violence which resulted in Detroit on June 21?

"Some self-designated responsible Negro leaders must share with the colored newspapers responsibility for the unfortunate attitude of certain Negro elements.

"Some of these leaders have themselves demonstrated an anti-social and factional outlook, which, if carried to their followers, would account for the militantly rebellious attitude of those elements," the report continued.

"Clearly there exists an obligation upon the leaders of all racial groups to reduce the ever-growing social problem. The problem can be solved only by determined, straightforward sociological measures."

The genesis of the riot, according to the report, lay with two Negro youths, both of whom have been sentenced for their parts in the disturbances. These youths incited the fighting on Belle Isle on Sunday night, June 20, because they wanted to get even for having been ejected from another park by white boys a few nights before.

In a second report, submitted by Dr. C. P. Ramsay of the Michigan Children's Institute, and based on interviews with rioters, it was pointed out that the majority of rioters were not recent migrants to Detroit. Seventy-four per cent had lived in Detroit more than five

His Report
New York, N. Y.
Detroit Civil Rights Group
Daily Worker

61-1943

Mississippi Manhunts While World Fights War

People's Voice New York, N.Y.

JUN 19 1943

By RICHARD SHANNON

JACKSON, Miss. (PV Southern Bureau)—On the eve of a Second Front in Europe, mississippi gave adolf hitler a big helping hand.

It shot down at least two more Negro soldiers, knocked another one unconscious, and locked up 10 more in the Covington County jail at Collins.

As I write this, a mob of Covington County officers and civilians are having a Mississipi field day "n- r huntin'" for several other soldiers following a bloody battle which began when their party of 20 was stopped near Mt. Olive on Sunday, June 6, by State Highway Patrolman C. T. Simmons.

FAILS TO HALT

The other wounded soldier was shot the same night in Collins after two posse members had fired as many loads of buckshot into him when he failed to stop upon their command. Collins' Justice of the Peace Wiley Duckworth then brought him down by shooting him through the leg with a .45 pistol.

Adding insult to legal lynching, Grenada authorities during the same period bulldozed and questioned 1500 Negro soldiers at Fort McClain, claiming that they were trying to locate six men for the alleged rape of a 40-year old white woman near Duck Hill on the night of May 29.

BATTLE STARTS

A joint military-civilian "investigation" this week said that some 40 shots were fired in the Mt. Olive battle. The 20 Negroes were returning from the little town of Sanatorium when they were flagged by Patrolman Simmons who loudly accused them of speeding.

An argument followed, and Simmons went back to his car for his gun. When he returned, flourishing the weapon, one of the Negroes inrushed him and knocked it out of his hand.

GRABS FIRE AXE

At that moment, a Tri-State bus stopped by the roadside. The white bus driver and a white soldier, travelling in the vehicle, jumped out and rushed over to reinforce Simmons.

Simmons claimed that the Negro who rushed him then drew his gun and fired without effect. The white soldier grabbed a fire axe from the bus and hit the Negro over the head, causing him to fall to the ground.

After the gunplay, all of the Negroes including 15 members of a Camp Shelby baseball Team, hid in the forest trying to escape what they feared might be a mass-lynching.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Marylan

Mob Obtains Release of White Rioter in Miss.

COLUMBUS, Miss. — (ANP)— Broadus Sullivan, the only white man among the eleven being held in connection with recent riots here was released last week because of "insufficient evidence" after a crowd assembled at the jail demanding his freedom.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Fear Riot Outbreak in Mississippi

High State Officials Working to Halt Expected Race Riot Over Injustices

JACKSON, Miss.—High state officials are working feverishly to halt possible race riots and to stem what might easily develop into a reign of terror following a report that a regiment of Negro troops has threatened to "clean Mississippi out."

Action was taken by Gov. Paul B. Johnson to avert trouble following the killing of a Negro soldier, asking the War Department to move the 364th Infantry Regiment to a northern station.

The 364th was recently ordered to Camp Van Dorn, near here, from Phoenix, Ariz.

Gov. Johnson asked for a War Department investigation following the incident, accompanied by a request for action from Centreville's Mayor Omer Carroll.

Accompanying the request of Gov. Johnson was a telegram from Mayor Carroll, which read:

"Urgently request that steps be taken to have the 364th Infantry recently ordered here from Phoenix be removed by War Department to northern station. This regiment is fomenting race riots and openly boasts that they have come to clean Mississippi out. Have had no trouble with other colored troops until arrival of this regiment from Arizona some days ago. Unless this request of utmost urgency as serious race riots are expected if this regiment is allowed to remain here."

Want No More Negroes

The governor said he also asked Sen. Bilbo and Eastland to advise Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson to seek an immediate investigation and not only the removal of the 364th, but a promise that no more northern Negro soldiers would be sent to this area.

City Marshal Robert J. Knignten in a report Wednesday said Sheriff Richard Whitaker shot and killed a Negro private from Camp Van Dorn when the latter resisted arrest by military police and attempted to take the military's policeman's gun. All military police in this area are white.

Col. R. E. Guthrie, commanding officer of Camp Dorn, described the trouble as an individual incident and said that there had been a little emotional disturbance among the colored troops and some among the people of Centreville.

Following the shooting of the unnamed soldier Sunday night, state guards and highway patrolmen are reported to have been ordered to Centreville, but were met near Brookhaven, Miss., by military officers who informed them that the situation was under control.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Marylan

15 Jailed, 2 Shot in Another Army Riot

COLLINS, Miss.—(ANP)—Fifteen colored soldiers were jailed and two shot as the aftermath of a clash Sunday between members of a Camp Shelby baseball team and a State highway patrolman, C. T. Simmons.

This latest racial trouble followed by a few days the slaying of a colored soldier by a sheriff elsewhere in this State and the request of ser- elsewhere an entire colored regiment recently sent here from the West.

Cop Causes Clash

Sunday's clash began when Simmons flagged down a truck containing the soldiers as it passed through Mt. Olive near here. Throwing a gun on the soldiers, he ordered them out of the vehicle.

One soldier, resenting the officer's attitude, rushed Simmons and knocked the gun out of his hand. The patrolman went back to his car after another weapon just as a Tri-State bus passed the scene and stopped, the driver and a white soldier getting out to help the officer.

Soldier Still Missing

In the ensuing melee, shots were fired by Simmons and the soldier who took his gun, with the white soldier grabbing the axe from the bus and clubbing one colored soldier unconscious.

The others ran for the nearby woods, with the armed colored soldier joining them when the gun he had taken became empty. Believed to have been badly wounded, he is still missing.

Simmons radioed for help. A posse was formed and the soldiers were rounded up and placed temporarily in the Covington County jail here. Later they were moved to Camp Shelby by MPs.

Feeling ran high through Sunday night when an unidentified colored soldier refused to heed the command of an armed white civilian to stop and was shot through the leg.

Fifteen Soldiers Race, Two Shot In Mississippi Race Trouble

Informer, Houston, Texas

COLLINS, Miss.—(ANP)—Latest communique from the Mississippi sector of the race-baiting Dixie front showed 15 Negro soldiers jailed and two shot as the aftermath of a clash Sunday between members of a Camp Shelby baseball team and a state highway patrolman, C. T. Simmons.

JUN 19 1943

JUN 19 1943

JUN 19 1943

Latest Racial Trouble

This latest racial trouble followed by a few days the slaying of a Negro soldier by a sheriff elsewhere in this state, and the request to move an entire Negro regiment, recently sent here from the West, out of Mississippi to a northern location.

Sunday's clash started when Simmons flagged down a truck containing the soldiers as it passed through Mt. Olive, near here. Throwing a gun on the soldiers, he ordered them out of the vehicle. One soldier, resenting the officer's attitude, rushed Simmons and knocked the gun out of his hand. The patrolman went back to his car after another weapon just as a Tri-State bus passed the scene and stopped, the driver and a white soldier getting out to help the officer.

Shots Fired

In the ensuing melee, shots were fired by Simmons and the soldier who took his gun, with the white soldier grabbing a fire axe from the bus and joining in the affray, clubbing one colored soldier unconscious. The others broke and ran for the nearby woods, with the armed Negro soldier joining them when the gun he had taken became empty. Believed to have been badly wounded, he is still missing.

Simmons radioed for help and other highway patrolmen, civilians and MP's responded. A posse was formed and after firing into the woods, the soldiers were rounded up and placed in the Covington county jail here temporarily, later being moved to Camp Shelby by MP's.

Feeling continued through Sunday night when an unidentified Negro soldier refused to heed the command of an armed white civilian to stop and was shot through

man of the eleven being held here in connection with the outbreak. Sullivan had been charged with disorderly conduct after he had struck an unnamed Negro soldier several times over the head with a pool cue. The soldier was also jailed.

JUN 26 1943

Following his arrest Sullivan told Sheriff P. B. Allen of Magee, that he had become involved in the fight with the soldier after the latter had pushed a white woman from the sidewalk. Sullivan claims that on seeing the act, he rushed from a pool room and proceeded to attack the soldier.

Mayor Strikes Man

Mayor Otis J. Biglono, on the street at the time, attempted to stop Sullivan, who then struck at the mayor, missing him and dropping the pool stick. The mayor then picked up the stick and struck Sullivan. Later Sullivan was arrested.

JUN 26 1943

A few hours after the crowd gathered Sullivan was released from jail "for lack of evidence." The wounded soldier was taken by highway patrolmen to Camp Shelby where he was admitted to the station hospital for treatment.

More Trouble Brews Between Civilians, Soldiers In Collins

Houston, Texas Informer

JUN 26 1943

COLLINS, Miss.—(ANP) — This small community is still feeling the after effects of the incident which occurred here a week ago when two Negro soldiers were wonded and others arrested after they had been stopped by officers and highway patrolmen in a truck returning from a baseball game.

Demand Release

Saturday afternoon a crowd assembled and demanded the release of Broodus Sullivan, the only white

61-1943

New Jersey

More Cops Patrol Newark As Negroes Ask Protection

PM

New York, N. Y.

JUN. 8 1943

Delegation Confers With Commissioner. Tension Rises Over Slaying of Boy

Additional uniformed policemen and plain-clothesmen patrolled Newark's First Ward today as tension rose over the slaying of a 15-year-old Negro boy last Thursday.

Fifty Negro leaders asked Police Commissioner George E. Kass for the additional police protection "to forestall more serious results."

The slaying climaxed a series of outbreaks between Negro and white boys which began Wednesday afternoon when several hundred boys couldn't get transportation away from the Newark Schools Stadium after a track meet.

Clergymen Head Group

The Negro leaders were headed by the Rev. William P. Hayes, member of the Newark Housing Authority; the Rev. J. C. Nelson, pastor of the Clinton Memorial A.M.E. Church, and the Rev. H. B. Jackson, pastor of the 13th Ave. Presbyterian Church.

Hayes stated that feeling in the First Ward had increased during the last 24 hours and was getting worse. He said that if nothing was done "our children will have to do something to protect themselves."

Nelson said he had to drive his children to school. He noted that unusually large crowds of students were gathered near three schools of the ward.

The Board of Education was criticized by the delegation for dismissing Negro pupils in two schools last Friday and instructing them not to return for the afternoon session.

Conference Today

The group will discuss further preventative measures today with Public Safety Director John B. Keenan.

Last night and Sunday night police were kept busy breaking up groups of Negro and white boys armed with clubs and bricks. Kass reported that Keenan patrolled the neighborhood himself until 4 a.m. yesterday because of the situation.

Kass promised yesterday that there might be "a break" in the search for the killer of Milton Heiley, the 15-year-old Negro boy.

Negroes in Newark Promised Protection

New York, N. Y.

PM

Police continued their augmented patrols through Newark's First and Third Wards yesterday to prevent a recurrence of last Thursday's outbreak between Negro and white boys in which a 15-year-old Negro boy was killed.

JUN 6 1943

Public Safety Director John B. Keenan assurred a second delegation of Negro leaders yesterday that "everything will be done that can be done by police to prevent any more trouble."

The Rev. William P. Hayes reported that the tension had subsided considerably because of increased police patrols.

Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

Newark Boy Slain By Whites In Ten-Alarm Race Conflict

JUN 12 1943

NEWARK, N. J. — Resentment against the wholesale arrests of Negroes here, following the race riot last week in which a 15-year-old Negro was shot and killed by a group of white youths and three others seriously hurt, caused spirited-minded citizens to criticize what they term "Gestapo" methods used by police.

Although no actual cause of the riot was advanced by police it is believed to have started after a track meet at City Stadium last Wednesday, where white and Negro youths had minor brawls.

Apparently the incident was at an end. But by nightfall gangs of Negroes and whites patrolled the streets bent on "getting even" with each other.

Negro Youth Killed

On Thursday night about 9 o'clock, Loyne Lyons, 15, of 8 Oriental Street said he and Milton Heiley of 301 New Street stopped a few blocks from Heiley's house to talk, after they had left their jobs as dishwashers on Park Place. Loyne said about a dozen white youths approached them and one of them asked:

"What are you niggers doing here? Were you at the Stadium Wednesday?" Before they had a chance to answer Lyons said, the whites started to beat them with fists and clubs. Seeing they were outnumbered, the two boys ran away. Two shots were fired by the white youths, one of which struck Heiley in the back. Loyne, said he then ran to the house of a friend. Heiley was taken to City hospital where he died five hours later. Police said the bullet that killed Heiley was from a .38 caliber pistol.

Loyne was treated for injuries of the head and body and then sent home from the hospital.

Police Round Up Negroes

Police action in answer to the slaying of the youths, was to round up groups of two or more Negroes on street corners. There was no announcement of arrests by police of white youths.

Public Safety Director John B. Keenan issued a statement to the press Saturday saying:

"I have been touring through the city tonight and I am greatly concerned. I want every Negro to know that I am their friend and I pledge that every policeman will be used to get to the bottom of the murder of one of their race. I ask them to remain calm, law-abiding citizens. Justice will be done."

Victim One Of Five Children

Milton Heiley, the slain youth was one of five boys and was known by all who knew him to be smart and ambitious. His stepmother said "He liked his studies and got good marks. He was studying bricklaying at Boy's Vocational School. He was not a member of any gang.

He was a 'judge' in the school 'court' the children had. Why any one would want to hurt him, I don't know."

Another brother, Pete, a former athlete said:

"I used to run the 220 in that meet, back in '38 and '39. There was always a crow of white fellows lined up at the gate after the meet, and we'd have to make a break to get through without getting beaten.

The slain youth's father, Birls, a City employee, said:

"Milton was not at that track meet. I found him lying in a backyard on Searing Street after some boys told me he had been shot."

equity and morals.

The attorney for the Negro youths and their families stated that if the city does not voluntarily settle the claims he is ready to bring action under the 1923 laws of the State of New Jersey, which give a right of action to any person who, by reason of mob violence, suffers material damage to his property or injury to his person. It provides that the action shall be against the city in which such damage is suffered and that the damages shall not exceed $5,000.

SEP 15 1943

The claim was made before Mayor Vincent J. Murphy and Newark Commissioners and in the presence of representatives of

Newark Youth Slain In Bitter Racial Clash

Chicago, Ill. Defender

JUN 12 1943

NEWARK, N. J.—As a result of a racial clash that began on a Newark street last Thursday, a 15-year-old Negro lies dead, a 17-year-old white youth lies desperately wounded at St. Michaels hospital, two other Negroes are seriously injured and several others reported as suffering minor hurts.

The slain colored youth is Milton Heiley, one of the six children of Birls Heiley.

JUN 12 1943

At the height of the trouble police roamed the thickly settled Negro sections of the city's First and Third Wards, breaking up groups of two or more, and making arrests. One observer stated that most if not all of the youths arrested, were Negroes.

The trouble was said to have been stemmed in a fight between colored and white high-school age boys, attending a school track meet Wednesday at Newark School Stadium. Because of poor bus arrangements after the game, a great crowd of the youths surged in front of the stadium gate.

The crowd soon became unruly and ended in a fight breaking out between the Negroes and whites. The trouble finally died down, but continued to smolder.

By late Wednesday night the fires were again kindled, with gangs of both whites and Negroes patrolling the streets in search of the trouble-makers at the track meet.

Thursday night, when the real clash occurred, Milton Heiley and Loyne Lyons, who had only an inkling of the trouble, were on their way home from the dishwashing jobs they held after school. A few blocks from Heiley's house they were accosted, witnesses say, by a group of white youths who immediately became abusive.

"What are you niggers doing here?," one of the whites demanded as the group surrounded them. "Were you at the stadium, Wednesday?" they also demanded and before the Negroes had a chance to answer, the whites began beating them, Loyne Lyons declared.

Seeing they were outnumbered the two colored boys started to run. Immediately, Lyons said, two shots were fired, one striking Milton Heiley in the back. Lyone escaped into the house of a friend, but suffered arm and head injuries. They both attend Boys' Vocational high school.

JUN 12 1943

The white youth who suffered a serious knife injury, was attacked, his sister says, by a group of Negro boys. He is Carmine Conforte, a defense plant worker. After the trouble had quieted somewhat, John B. Keenan, Public Safety Director of Newark, issued this statement:

"I have been touring through this city tonight and I am greatly concerned. I want every Negro to know that I am their friend and I pledge that every policeman will be used to get to the bottom of the murder of one of their race. I ask them to remain calm, law-abiding citizens. Justice will be done."

The Northwest Enterprise

Seattle, Washington

NEWARK RACE

RIOTS LEAD TO LAW SUITS

Newark, N. J.—Damages from

of Milton Halley and injury to Loine Lyons, each 16 years of age, as a result of the race riots in Newark in June were sought

the City of Newark for the death

Newark attorney and the Commissioners under considera-

The Mayor and tion to view

tion of the standpoint of

the Urban Colored Population Commission of the State of New Jersey and Milton R. Konvitz, of the NAACP legal staff.

The NAACP also reported that Vincent Potito and Ralph Ugaro, indicted for murder in connection with the death of Milton Hailey, will be held for trial on September 27. In a confession made by the two defendants, six other persons have been identified as involved in the riots.

The NAACP has also disclosed that the Urban Colored Population Commission of New Jersey, consisting of William D. Galloway, Chairman, Richard L. Marton, and Mrs. Sarah Spencer Washington, prominent Negroes of the State of New Jersey, have investigated the riots and have submitted a report to Governor Charles Edison. In their report the Commission cast blame on the police behavior in the disturbance area, which the Commission bitterly condemns and unequivocally protests.

Among the recommendations made by the Commission are the following: (1) That the State enact a law with teeth making persons guilty of participating in racial conflicts subject to severe punishment, and punish also persons guilty of provoking racial animosity and intolerance. (2) That the State outlaw all contracts between employers and labor unions when the latter bar persons from membership bacause of race, color or creed. (3) That the Civil Rights Law be amended to provide for the revocation of any state licenses under which a public place is operated, if there is a refusal to serve a patron because of race, color or creed. (4) That the State Guard open its enlistment rolls to Negroes without segregation or discrimination.

SEP 15 1943

NEWARK RACE RIOTS LEAD TO COURT SUITS

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Seek Damages From City For Death, Injury To Two Youths

NEWARK, N.J.—Damages from the city of Newark for the death of Milton Hailey and injury to Loine Lyons, each 16 years of age, as a result of the race riots in Newark in June were sought on July 28 by Thomas Potter, Newark attorney.

The mayor and the commissioners stated that they would take the claims under consideration and will attempt to view them from the standpoint of equity and morals.

The attorney for the Negro youths and their families stated that if the city does not voluntarily settle the claims, he is ready to bring action under the 1923 laws of the State of New Jersey, which give a right of action to any person who, by reason of mob violence, suffers material damage to his property or injury to his person, and provides that the action shall be against the city in which such damage is suffered and that the damages shall not exceed $5,000.

AUG 7 1943

Murder Trial

The claim was made before Mayor Vincent J. Murphy and Newark commissioners and in the presence of representatives of the Urban Colored Population Commission of the State of New Jersey and Milton R Konvitz of the NAACP legal staff.

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AUG 7 1943

Seek Damages from Newark For Recent Race Riots

Washington Tribune Washington, D. C.

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AUG 7 1943

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File Claims For Damages Against Newark For Rioting Which Ended In Boy's Death And Injury Of 2nd

New York, N. Y.

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People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

Elizabeth, N. J., Seeks To Prevent Outbreaks

ELIZABETH, N. J.—Mayor James T. Kirk has set aside Sunday, Aug. 15, as Unity Day, proclaiming that "all Americans, whatever creed and color, are fighting to rid the world of hatred and prejudice."

The proclamation also said that it is impossible to allow the existence of these evils at home without undermining the united war effort of the United Nations.

The setting aside of Unity Day came as the result of a request of the Unity for Victory Committee of Elizabeth and vicinity, a newly formed group for the promotion of better understanding and harmony among the Negro and white people in the community.

The committee is composed of leading white and Negro citizens who are seeking to prevent in Elizabeth such outbreaks as occurred recently in New York, Detroit, Beaumont and Los Angeles.

61-1943

New York

6 Dead; Hundreds Arrested By Cops

BY CHAPPY GARDNER

NEW YORK, N. Y. (Special to the Tribune)—Hoodlums circulating a wild rumor that a policeman had shot a colored soldier early Sunday night, threw Harlem into the worst riot and reign of terror ever experienced in its long and colorful history.

AUG 7-1943

Philadelphia Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Men and women attracted by the crashing of plate glass windows and great crowds of teen-age boys, from 15 to 20 years, rushing through the streets yelling and smashing things as they went, soon found themselves following the same youngsters, doing the same damage to property without ever stopping to think what it was all about. Before the law stepped in, six persons had been killed, 500 held for breaking and pillaging stores, and more than 600 hurt, some seriously.

But it was not a race riot. It was not a fight between white and black. It was all Harlem's own big-time riot. And they were fighting in their own way. In all their seeming anger, the mobs engaged in breaking windows of the merchants doing business in the sector from 110th street up to 155th street and St. Nicholas avenue, did not harm a store owned or operated by colored persons.

Apparently the rules were the same followed by the mob of 1935 when Chinese business showing signs, "Me Colored Too," were not harmed.

The writer, with other eye-witnesses, happened to walk in on the start of all the trouble Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the lobby of the Braddock Hotel, 126th street and 8th avenue, in the crowded sector of Harlem and long frequented by the sporting element, professional people and actors.

Approaching the desk, we observed two colored women, seemingly under the influence of liquor, demanding a refund of money formerly advanced for a room, from Miss Emily James, of 1313 north Frazier street, Philadelphia, clerk at the hotel.

Becoming abusive and loud, Patrolman James Collins, of the 135th street station, attempted to arrest Margie Polite, 33, of 368 west 127th street for disorderly conduct.

AUG 7-1943

Collins is one of the policemen doing 24-hours-a-day duty in the hotel for several months. Figuring that the woman was about to be struck by the patrolman, Private Robert Bandy, of the 730th M. P. stationed in Jersey City, N. J., grabbed the patrolman's club and floored him.

Probably expecting colored people attracted to the door by the loud talk, the patrolman blazed away at the soldier from a half reclining, half sitting position, the bullet grazing the soldier's arm. Both cop and soldier were rushed to the Sydenham Hospital for treatment where the onlooking crowd followed and was soon joined by some 2,000 or 3,000 more, all clamoring to know whether the soldier had died.

When no word came from the doctors, the crowd grew furious. It later learned that the soldier had been removed to downtown Bellevue Hospital. Up to this writing, both cop and soldier are alive.

From this point things happened fast. The rumor spread like wildfire that the white cop had killed a colored soldier. From 10:30 p. m. Sunday continuing through to Monday morning, windows were smashed, contents dragged out and taken away. Beds, dressers and blankets were rolled thru the streets by men and women. Young zoot-suiters stole dress suits, silk hats, and cases of whiskey, while women satisfied themselves with fur coats and dresses of every style and description.

Early morning hours found the children snatching candy, soda and ice cream bars. Before 8 o'clock, Mayor LaGuardia had traveled the troubled zone in his car begging the people to leave the streets. They cheered him, but went right on robbing.

The arrival of army trucks loaded with white and colored MP's, followed by almost every patrol and squad car in the police department, loaded with police, had a sobering effect. By Monday night, Commissioner Valentine had placed 6,500 cops, detectives and inspectors into the Harlem hot spot, augumented by a citizens' police force of 1,500 men, hastily gotten together and instructed by Commissioner of Parole for New York, Samuel J. Battle. The new force, all colored, was given police clubs and arm bands.

As the Mayor went on the air at 9:45 p. m. Monday in his broadcast, he stated that police had the situation well in hand. But not before dimout regulations had been lifted to allow cops to see their supposed enemy; not before Commissioner Valentine had placed police on all available roof tops with riot guns in position to shoot, and not before every saloon in Harlem had been closed.

Curfew followed all this at 10:30 p. m. No buses have run through Lenox and Seventh avenues and Crosstown since early Sunday night.

Many causes were advanced for the riot, which caused an estimated $5,000,000 loss of property, and six deaths.

First, over-ceiling prices charged by grocers, excessive rent higher than in any other section of New York City for similar housing and the injustices suffered by our boys in southern camps without a word of defense coming from our government.

And yet, there are thousands of Harlem residents who were not the least favorable to the actions of the young hoodlums and their older helpers. It is emphasized that a riot in New York, at a time when we have an enemy to beat and destroy, hurts the war effort and throws the colored population 20 years back in its desire to obtain better treatment and equality in sharing all the constitutional rights guaranteed under the law.

Fair Enough

World-Telegram

By Westbrook Pegler

New York, N. Y.

AUG 4 1943



There is a disposition to give Mayor La Guardia much more credit than he deserves for the handling of the riot of a criminal element of Negroes in Harlem and to withhold from the New York policemen who faced the mobs and won the victory with a minimum of bloodshed and damage just that proportion of the credit which is due them. A correct proportion would be about .01 per cent for the Mayor and 99.99 per cent for the cops, who are the best in the United States and probably the best in the world their virtues and the problems considered.

In the first place, one reason why the looters and bad-men and women could get out of hand was that the authority of the police has been systematically undermined in Harlem during La Guardia's time in office. If, during all these years, the bad actors among the population of that colored neighborhood had been held to the same standard of conduct and law observance that is required of colored and white citizens alike in other sections of the city rioters would have been no more likely to break loose there than in, say, Mulberry Bend or Murray Hill. If, in one of these other regions, an individual or a group of three or four step out of line or refuse to break it up at the cop's command he simply picks his man and locks him up and that is that. In Harlem, on the contrary, the policemen have been victims of a special policy which has coddled the loafer and fancy-Dan to the peril and embarrassment of the decent Negroes who have to live with these ructioneers and run the risk of assaults and fights with them and share the bad name which they have given the largest Negro center in the United States.

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The decent Negro citizens know that the name of Harlem has attracted there an element of bums and thieves who were no good in their own home towns and are no better here, and it was no compliment to the decent element when La Guardia put handcuffs on the policemen to hamper them in dealing with offenders who would be slapped down fast and locked up as a matter of routine if the law were faithfully and impartially enforced in Harlem. La Guardia has seemed to believe that the law-abiding, industrious colored citizen would thank him for special lenience to the element of no-goods, of both sexes, who are neither an asset nor a credit to any community.

A couple of years ago, I made the mistake of criticizing a large number of time-expired New York policemen, many of them relatively young fellows, who, having served their 20 years on the force, were putting in for retirement on pension, according to their legal right. To my regret, I went so far as to suggest that their retirement then was comparable to desertion in the face of an emergency presented by a foreign enemy, without first consulting a few harness cops and others of the rank and file to get their side. I got it, however, a few days later, in a large batch of letters from policemen, many of whom gave their names, in which the men complained bitterly of humiliations put upon them by La Guardia in public disparagements of individual policemen and in the discredit of their authority as cops in Harlem and in troubles with union pickets. If they stayed on, as many of them said they would have been willing to under any Mayor whose fairness theyand were unwilling to serve longer under could count upon, they had to take the risk ofwere standing on their rights. Their departmental charges and dismissal with conse-conditions in Harlem. After quent loss of all their earned pension rights,two able men then on the District Attorney's staffkeep affairs in a touchy condition all the time they felt that La Guardia had treated them badly who also said the Communists of La Guardia's by turning into a case of Cossack persecution every

altercation between a policeman, whether colored or white, and any Negro mischief maker.

• • •

Having helped stack the crates and barrels by his anti-cop policy over a number of years, the Mayor then was aghast when the pile was touched off by a fracas between a policeman and two Negroes whose little mishap should have been a routine entry. But it was the cops, operating under reduced prestige who had to do the dangerous work in the streets to save the peace of the rest of the city and protect the lives of the great majority of law-abiding Harlem Negroes.

La Guardia was technically correct in saying that his was no race riot but nevertheless, in the imagination of the rioters, it was just that and for this reason certain elements of the Negro press cannot escape responsibility. Even Mrs. Roosevelt has mildly deplored this editorial policy of these papers which, frankly, is one of race hatred and incitation and of ennoblement of every Negro in any jam with the law, even though the subject be known to his Negro neighbors as a worthless bad-man.

It was grievously unfair to the brave and conscientious New York policemen and to the decent Negroes of Harlem to handicap the law in Harlem and this riot was due in no small part to that policy.

My Day

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

By Eleanor Roosevelt

I got off the train Monday morning at 125th St. to be met by Captain Amidon and Chief Mildred McAfee who were taking me over to the naval training station in the Bronx. As we came down the steps a rather excitable lady asked me if I knew that there had been a race riot in Harlem. My heart sank, for I would hate to have our city of New York succumb to this hysteria which can do so such harm to break up the unity of our people.



Race riots which begin with one group may spread to other groups. They may become expressions of people's intolerance against different religions, and so it is all-important that those of us who can be calm, objective and sane, try to act in that way wherever we are at the present time. We must not be frightened. We must not be stampeded and we must not be gullible and believe everything that people tell us without proof.

• • •

From all I could learn the incident which occured on Sunday was not very serious, though anything which causes loss of life and injures a number of people is serious as a sign of ill will among us and should not be minimized, but neither should it be exaggerated. We, the people in New York City have lived, in harmony, in spite of the fact that we have represented a great many races and religions for a great many years. We must not now, at a time when the country needs an example of unity, allow ourselves to be divided.

• • •

The girls I saw passing in review had only been in the Waves 17 days, but they made a very creditable showing. Admiral Kelly was there to review them and from the field we proceeded to visit the schoolrooms where they try to give the recruits an idea of the various fields in which they can work. We saw the barracks, the mess halls, the hospital.

There is no adequate recreation at this training center for the girls, and no good place for them to drill or to meet in winter.

This is a big school where from 2000 to 5000 girls are in training. Since it is near Washington I wish that some of the members of Congress who are interested in our military organizations might come to visit here.

One Week After

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

ON WEDNESDAY night of Aug. 4, we were all proud that Mayor LaGuardia and the leaders of the Harlem community had handled the situation as they did.

We also resolved that we would not repeat what took place in 1935. Many good resolutions were made, a healthy program for remedying the evils afflicting Harlem was drawn up—and then nothing was done to make that program live. Housing was allowed to deteriorate. Job discrimination was not adequately tackled. Prices were permitted to remain out of gear. The other abuses against our Negro fellow-citizens were not dealt with vigorously.

Any such lag on the part of the democratic and labor groups in our city now would be most serious in its consequences. Those who are unfriendly to democratic ideas are already rushing forward with "new ways" to deal with this matter.

One Rev. Dr. Samuel Henry Prince came down from Canada last Sunday to poison the air of a religious assemblage with the barbarous charge that "the herd instinct" among the Negro people is the root of their troubles. This is nothing other than the Hitlerite racist theory, and democratic New York wants to hear none of it.

Then, according to certain reports, Attorney General Biddle is said to have actually proposed as a "solution" to the situation that Negro migration to industrial centers be stopped. If these reports are true, then the Attorney General once more is demonstrating that he is out of step entirely with the President and with this anti-Axis war. Labor and the people's organizations have a real duty to make sure that this suggestion is thoroughly rejected.

What is essential right now is that all democratic organizations in the Greater City get busy at once to wipe out the abuses in Harlem. No new program is needed. Plenty of such programs have been drawn up, such as that of 1935. The big obligation of the hour is to assure that they are put into effect at last.

Mayor LaGuardia Tells Citizens 'Not a Race Riot'

Five Negroes Are Dead

Des Moines, Iowa
Bystander

New York (AP)—Disorders in Harlem which began early Monday were quelled by Monday night leaving five persons dead, 543 injured and more than 500 under arrest. Life was near normal Tuesday.

The outbreak was not a race riot. "There was no conflict between groups of our citizens," said Mayor LaGuardia. "What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people."

The trouble began when a white policeman Sunday night shot a Negro man who tried to interfere with the officer in his arrest of a Negro woman in a hotel lobby.

Mayor LaGuardia admitted that the situation was tense Monday but said that the crowds were unorganized and easily broken up.

The mayor appealed to the residents of Harlem by radio to stay at home. Auto traffic in the area was stopped and stores closed.

Wounded by Rocks

Most of the injured persons were wounded by rocks and missiles thrown by hoodlums from roof-tops. Several persons suffered from stab wounds. Women and men riding on busses early in the period of violence were hit by flying bottles.

To quell the disorders, 6,000 policemen were stationed in Harlem. In addition, 1,500 Negro persons were commissioned by Mayor LaGuardia to assist maintaining order. They were armed with nightsticks and equipped with identification badges. They aided police in patrolling the district in an effort to keep order.

The charges against the 500 persons arrested were for the most part burglary, unlawful entry, inciting to riot, receiving stolen property and grand larceny.

Soldiers Rescue Man

The West 123rd police station was full of stolen meat, clothing, furniture, liquor, canned goods and groceries—picked up from the street as looters fled.

A white man attacked by a group of hoodlums, was rescued by Negro soldiers. An unoccupied car was burned.

Mayor LaGuardia made three radio addresses to the people of Harlem. In the third one, the mayor said:

"I expect from the people of Harlem the fullest cooperation today and tonight and until complete order is restored. Traffic will be mited . . . We want to keep people from other parts of the city away from Harlem. Any who attempt to enter the damaged stores in Harlem will be prosecuted to the fullest."

The dead are:

Sterling Stokes, 20, of Savannah, Georgia.

Frank Stoner, 40, shot by policeman when he was caught looting and drew knife.

Michael Young, 43, found dead with gunshot wounds in the chest.

Vincent Randolph, 35 shot by policeman while looting.

Neal Lucas, shot by a bartender.

An unidentified Negro, who died from a bullet wound after being taken to Harlem hospital.

The damage to property has not yet been estimated, but the area looked like a graveyard.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said Tuesday his department was investigating reports that Ku Klux Klan agents had been sent to Harlem to provoke the violence that broke out Monday and cost five lives.

Asked whether it was true that a police sabotage squad had been investigating the presence of hoodlums from out of town for some time before the outbreak of rioting, he replied, "partly."

Baltimore, Md.
AUG 5 1943

First U.S. Riot Was in 1712, Old Book Reveals

Afro-American

According to the book, the riot began when colored persons set fire to the home of a Dutch resident, Peter Van Tilburgh. The New York population was then 10,000, one-fifth of the people being colored.

Eight or ten whites were killed and many wounded, the colored people occurred in New York in 1712, were taken as prisoners or killed themselves, according to the book.

JERSEY CITY N.J.—The first race riots on record in this country involving colored people occurred in New York in 1712, according to an ancient book reflected in the Secaucus Public Library.

AUG 21 1943

NEW YORK

THE RIOT PHOTOS

Defender — *An Editorial* — Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago Defender is not publishing any photos of the Harlem riot in this—or any other edition—of the paper.

At least a dozen photos of the outbreak were available to the Defender through its regular sources.

They were gruesome, bloody, inflamatory.

In line with the requests of President Roosevelt, leading governors and mayors that all efforts be made to calm and ease racial tension and further the war effort, we are relegating these photos to the files.

Perhaps some day when sanity and intelligence again prevail, when passions are calmed and men of good will can view the photohistory of American atrocities without reaching for weapons, we will bring these pictures out again.

This is a time for patience, tolerance and common sense.

This applies to men of all colors—black and white.

Take heed and remember our enemy is Hitler and Tojo—and not the fellow down the block or the cop on the beat.

Let's beat our enemies lest we beat ourselves.

HARLEM RIOT LOSSES ONLY $225,000; PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT $5,000,000

New York, N. Y.

Contradicting the swollen $5,000,000 estimate after the outbreak, a survey by the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives made public last week states that losses resulting from the Harlem riot of August 1 and 2 will amount to not more than $225,000.

In order to avoid duplication of losses and to facilitate payments, the association received lists of glass and burglary losses incurred by its member companies. These lists were then checked against those of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters.

Glass and burglary losses reported to date indicate that stock casualty companies will have to make glass payments amounting to approximately $100,000. These had previously been thought to run from $325,000 to $750,000

People's Voice

Burglary lists [illegible] reported, and which are presumed to be practically completed, show that losses should not exceed $125,000.

Real Reason for the Start of New York's Rioting

Afro-American — Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—Butter is 80 cents a pound and Harlem is the dumping ground for seconds in food and merchandise rejected for other areas.

But the real cause of the Harlem riot is simple. Policemen must not shoot soldiers in uniform.

There are several stories in the D.A.'s office, but this is one by an eye witness. Pvt. Robert Bandy, a Jersey City, N.J., MP, and his mother, Mrs. Florence Roberts of Middletown, Conn., entered the Hotel Braddock. A white policeman, James Collins was about to strike a girl. The MP interferred, said it seemed a shame to strike a woman with a club. The policeman threw his club at Bandy, who stooped to pick it up and was shot by the policeman in the shoulder.

His mother screamed and the riot was on.

'Committee of 1500'

The Daily Worker — New York, N. Y.

Formed in Harlem

By Sender Garlin and Eugene Gordon

While the death list rose to six as a result of disorders in Harlem beginning late Sunday night, Negro labor and civic leaders yesterday strove heroically to aid Mayor F. H. LaGuardia in restoring complete order to the stricken community.

Outbreaks, which began in an obscure hotel Sunday and swept the streets of Harlem for hours, resulted in six deaths, more than 200 injured, more than 300 arrested and property damage estimated in the millions.

While the police, called from all parts of the tense city, guarded every street corner of Harlem from 110th to 155th Sts., a new dramatic element entered the situation—the recruitment of a Negro Civilian Committee of 1,500 to accompany police on patrol duty.

This action is believed to be the first of its kind in America. This step by Mayor LaGuardia was in striking contrast to the anti-Negro attitude of Detroit officials.

UNIFIED ACTION

Meanwhile, meeting at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 250 Negro and white citizens representing labor, community, and church groups joined to bring about unified action to aid in restoring order in Harlem.

Speakers included Congressman Vito Marcantonio, Judge Hubert Delaney, Dr. Max Yergan and others. Councilman A. Clayton Powell presided.

Judge Delaney declared that the events in Harlem "can not be described as a race riot, but an expression on the part of the people against all the things that have happened to them. The people of New York, and especially the people of Harlem, must show that they can handle the situation."

First task, Judge Delaney said, was to "put a stop to looting of stores." Otherwise, he said, the food situation will become unbearable. Already, he said children in Harlem are without food and milk is so scarce it has to be brought from other parts of the city."

MARCANTONIO SPEAKS

Addressing the gathering Congressman Marcantonio said:

"As much satisfaction as the poll taxers, the Christian Fronters, the America Firsters, the Ku Klux Klan and the native fascists can get out of it, this was not a race riot. It was not a Detroit. Our present objective is to reestablish normal life and afterward investigate the causes of the outbreak."

The gathering commended Mayor LaGuardia "on restoring order."

In a telegram to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, the meeting said "leaders in the community are thoroughly behind the Mayor and his administration. We believe the situation is well in hand and that intervention of the State government is entirely unnecessary at this time."

The gathering decided, however, to urge that Harlem rent prices be rolled back to Jan. 1, 1942 levels, appointment of Negroes to Harlem rationing boards, and a better system of education for housewives in the buying of food under the rationing system.

An immediate result of the meeting was the issuance of a leaflet which was at once distributed widely throughout Harlem urging the maintenance of order.

CIO BACKS MAYOR

Support for the mayor and his committee "to stop all rumor mongering and to prevent provocations," was urged in a statement issued last night by Joseph Curran, president, and Saul Mills, secretary of the Greater New York Industrial Union Council.

The statement declared:

"The rioting which took place in Harlem Sunday night must not be allowed to recur. The Greater New York Industrial Union Council calls upon all of its affiliated unions and every one of their members to place themselves at the disposal of the Mayor and his Committee and to do everything within their power to stop all rumor mongering and prevent any provocations.

"We are calling upon every available Negro member of the CIO throughout the City to help Mayor LaGuardia's exemplary and highly commendable efforts to rally all the people of the city to a disciplined and calm attempt to isolate last night's disturbance and prevent it from recurring."

The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, through George Marshall, praised the effective leadership of Mr. LaGuarida and the police of New York in the following wire sent yesterday to the Mayor:

"Commend you and your police for your fair and effective leadership following the Harlem disorders. Approve particularly your cooperative action with such outstanding Negro leaders as Dr. Max Yergan and Ferdinand Smith to prevent spread of the violence. Urge that you form committee of New York leaders to assist you in preventing further outbreaks. Assure you of our fullest support."

COMMEND MA[illegible]

In a statement issued last night, Eugene P. Connolly, secretary of the New York County Committee of the American Labor Party, placed the full resources of the organization behind Mayor LaGuardia in "his commendable effort to fight against discrimination."

Mr. Connolly said: "Representative Vito Marcantonio, chairman of our party and author of the anti-poll tax bill passed in the House, is sticking to his post in Harlem today, bending every effort to bring about order in his community.

"Congressman Marcantonio has asked me to urge citizens of our city to remain cool and to support every effort of the mayor in the maintenance of order."

LA GUARDIA BR[illegible]CASTS

Shortly before 1 o'clock Monday morning Mayor LaGuardia went on the air over stations WOR and ABC in an appeal to the people of Harlem to cooperate with the authorities in clearing certain streets of milling crowds and to explain the situation that had made necessary reinforcements.

The mayor interrupted his radio broadcast to introduce Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress and director of the Council on African Affairs, and Ferdinand Smith, vice-president of the National Maritime Union. The latter strongly supported LaGuardia in his appeal.

La Guardia went on the air again at 9.50 a.m. over stations WOR, WABC, WEAF, WJZ, WHN, WMCA, WNEW and WQXR. In this speech he again urged "complete cooperation today and tonight and until order is completely restored." He reiterated that what had occurred was not a race riot. The plan for civilian patrol duty included Mayor LaGuardia as part of a Civilian Committee of 1,500 for patrol duty began last night at the 28th Police precinct on West 123rd St. Many Negro unionists were understood to have volunteered their services to help the city authorities maintain order.

Recruiting of Harlem citizens as Gen. William A. Terry, commander of the Second Service Command of civic organizations and churches in this area, Police Commissioner Val-Harlem.

FOUR HOUR SHIFT

Parole Commissioner [illegible], Dr. Max Yergan, and a number of [illegible]. Their job, it was explained, will be to patrol the Harlem area along [illegible]ders. [illegible]r Battle, a Negro, with police officers and members of

the city patrol. They will be provided with clubs, helmets and arm bands. They will be on four-hour shifts of patrol duty and they will assist in maintaining order and help in the enforcement of the 10:30 P. M. curfew.

Clifford T. McAvoy, former Deputy Commissioner of Public Welfare and now Legislative Director of the New York CIO Industrial Union Council, is in charge of recruiting CIO members for civilian patrol duty.

Throughout the day five sound trucks owned by the New York city radio station, WNYC, toured Harlem. They made regular five-minute stops at street corners where speakers appealed for the maintenance of order. Dr. Yergan, Walter White and Ed Strong, the latter Executive Secretary of the National Negro Congress, were among those who addressed the assemblages.

While declaring that the residents of Harlem had just grievances arising out of discrimination on jobs, excessive prices, high rents, etc., they nevertheless emphasized the fact that redress of these grievances would have to be obtained in orderly fashion, and that incidents such as those which broke out Sunday night constituted the worst possible course of action.

The incident that touched off the Harlem events was the reported rough handling of a 33-year-old woman, Miss Marjorie White, of 258 W. 127th St., by Patrolman James Collins in the lobby of the Hotel Braddock, 272 W. 126th St.

According to the police, Collins was asked to make the arrest by hotel manager Harry Wagner.

Police charged that Pvt. Robert Bandy, a 26-year-old Negro soldier attached to the 730th Military Police batallion stationed in Jersey City and on leave, sought to interfere with Collins. Their version was that the youthful soldier took the club from the policeman and struck him. Collins, it is admitted, then drew his revolver and shot the Negro private.

Bandy was then taken to Sydenham Hospital nearby, suffering from what was yesterday reported to be a flesh wound. A crowd of more than 1,000, aroused by rumors that the soldier had been killed, followed the ambulance to the hospital and remained outside throughout a good portion of the night.

AUG 3

CONGREGATE IN STREETS

Trouble broke out shortly thereafter when small groups began to congregate along the various thoroughfares of Harlem.

While no organized attempts to incite violence were visible, disorders soon broke out. Store windows were smashed and merchandise pilfered. Youths were conspicuous in these activities.

In some places bottles were thrown but at no time did the disorders seem to take on a racial character.

Despite repeated pleas from Mayor La Guardia and various Negro community leaders, the crowds continued to throng the streets during the early hours of Monday morning. Meanwhile, police reserves had been called in from all sections of the city until an estimated 7,000 officers were on hand.

Negro and white military police from Governors Island and Fort Jay were also called in and all uniformed men were removed from Harlem.

AUG 3 1943

However, ignoring exhortations of Negro civic leaders and police efforts, small groups continued looting. The great mass of Harlem residents, however, took no part in this and returned to their homes. Clashes with looters were responsible for the shootings for the four Negroes who were killed early Monday morning.

AUG 3 1943

Eighth Avenue, from 125th to 135th St., a shopping center, was virtually wrecked, with plate glass debris strewn over the sidewalks and store shelves stripped.

Not racial feeling, but resentment against high prices and discrimination motivated much of the violence against the stores, according to Harlem observers.

Harlem Rioting Dixie's Fault

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
August 6, 1943

(From The Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Well Virginians, you may not have heard it before, but you and other white Southerners are largely to blame for the bloody disorders in Harlem over the week end. How can there be any doubt of it? Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, says it's true.

It was this same Walter White who declared that "Southern white crackers" who had moved to Detroit in the past 15 months, brought on the recent Detroit race riot. Yet Dr. C. E. Ramsey, director of the Michigan Department of Social Welfare, found that not one of the nearly 500 persons arrested had been in Detroit less than five years. Only last Saturday police announced that three youths arrested in Detroit for the "cold-blooded murder" of a negro in the riot had confessed. These "Southern white crackers" were named Aldo Trani, Armendo Mastanuono and Anthony Saraceno.

And now the head of the N. A. A. C. P. proclaims that the sanguinary and tragic outburst in Harlem, which took six or more lives and caused millions of dollars worth of damage, grew out of the "mistreatment of negro soldiers, particularly in the South." It seems that this mistreatment "is a terribly sore point with negroes." Consequently, when a New York policeman (he must have been a "Southern white cracker") arrested a colored soldier in a Harlem hotel which had been raided on a charge of being a house of prostitution, and the soldier hit the cop in the head with his own nightstick and ran, the policeman fired, striking the negro in the shoulder.

That, naturally enough, began the Dixie-instigated hoodlumism. Negro youths roved all over Harlem looting stores, most of them owned and operated by negroes. These youths also engaged in wholesale fist fights with one another, and stabbed one another with knives, razors and other handy weapons. You can readily see why. Colored soldiers are not treated as they should be in the South. Therefore negro hoodlums in Harlem decided to carve one another up, to loot and wreck stores operated by members of their own race, and to attack policemen (all of whom come from Mississippi, as is well known).

Such is the reasoning to which we apparently are being treated by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Is there any longer any mystery concerning the reasons why most leaders of the negro race in the South prefer to look for guidance elsewhere? Such fantastic nonsense and irrational bitterness as emanates nowadays from this and other spokesmen for the N. A. A. C. P. serves only to stir up antagonism between the races in the South.

Those Southern whites who are genuinely anxious to achieve for the colored people of this section those rightful opportunities which have been denied them, and those Southern negroes who realize that their friends among the Southern whites are the only people who can make such opportunities a permanent reality, will know how much weight to give to the N.A.A.C.P.'s future pronouncements. Race riots are a disgrace to the Nation, whether they occur in Beaumont or Harlem. They can best be prevented by the promotion of fair treatment for the negroes and better understanding. Preposterous efforts to blame the South for all the disorders and riots that occur in the North must augment, rather than diminish, the difficulties which lie in the way of interracial progress.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

FAIR ENOUGH

By WESTBROOK PEGLER.

Proper Credits

NEW YORK, Aug. 4. There is a disposition to give Mayor La Guardia much more credit than he deserves for the handling of the riot of a criminal element of Negroes in Harlem and to withhold from the New York policemen who faced the mobs and won the victory with a minimum of bloodshed and damage just that proportion of the credit which is due them. A correct proportion would be about .01 per cent for the mayor and 99.99 per cent for the cops, who are the best in the United States and probably the best in the world, their virtues and the problems considered.

AUG 5 1943

In the first place, one reason why the looters and bad men and women could get out of hand was that the authority of the police has been systematically undermined in Harlem during LaGuardia's time in office. If, during all these years, the bad actors among the population of that colored neighborhood had been held to the same standard of conduct and law observance that is required of colored and white citizens alike in other sections of the city, rioters would have been no more likely to break loose there than in, say, Mulberry Bend or Murray Hill. If, in one of these other regions, an individual or a group of three or four step out of line or refuse to break it up at the cop's command he simply picks his man and locks him up and that is that. In Harlem, on the contrary, the policemen have ben victims of a special policy which has coddled the loafer and fancy-dan to the peril and embarrassment of the decent Negroes who have to live with these ructioneers and run the risk of assaults and fights with them and share the bad name which they have given the largest Negro center in the United States.

Attracted Worthless

The decent Negro citizens know that there an element of bums and thieves who were no good in their own home towns and are no better here, and it was no compliment to the decent element when LaGuardia put handcuffs on the policemen to hamper them in dealing with offenders who would be slapped down fast and locked up as a matter of routine if the law were faithfully and impartially enforced in Harlem. LaGuardia has seemed to believe that the law-abiding, industrious colored citizen would thank him for special leniency to the element of no-goods, of both sexes, who are neither an asset nor a credit to any community.

A couple of years ago, I made the mistake of criticizing a large number of time-expired New York policemen, many of them relatively young fellows, who, having served their 20 years on the force, were putting in for retirement on pension, according to their legal right. To my regret, I went so far as to suggest that their retirement then was comparable to desertion in the face of an emergency presented by a foreign enemy, without first consulting a few harness cops and others of the rank and file to get their side. I got it, however, a few days later, in a large batch of letters from policemen, many of whom gave their names, in which the men complained bitterly of humiliations put upon them by LaGuardia in public disparagements of individual policemen and in the discredit of their authority as cops in Harlem and in troubles with union pickets. If they stayed on, as many of them said they would have been willing to under any mayor whose fairness they could count upon, they had to take the risk of departmental charges and dismissal with consequent loss of all their earned pension rights. They felt that LaGuardia had them badly and unwilling to serve longer under him and were standing on their rights. Their version of conditions in Harlem later was confirmed by two able men then on the districlt attorney's staff who also said the Communists of LaGuardia's left wing in Harlem, where Congressman Vito Marcantonio is a power and the mayor's political protege, enjoyed special privileges and contrived to keep affairs in a touchy condition all the time by turning into a case of Cossack persecution every altercation between a policeman, whether colored or white, and any Negro mischief maker.

Cops Faced The Danger

Having helped stack the crates and barrels by his anticop policy over a number of years, the mayor then was aghast when the pile was touched off by a fracas between a policeman and two Negroes whose little mishap should have been a routine entry. But it was the cops, operating under reduced prestige who had to ment to the decent element when do the dangerous work in the streets to save the peace of the rest of the city and protect the lives of the great majority of law-abiding Harlem Negroes.

LaGuardia was technically correct in saying that this was no race riot but nevertheless, in the imagination of the rioters, it was just that and for this reason certain elements of the Negro press cannot escape responsibility. Even Mrs. Roosevelt has mildly deplored this editorial policy of these papers which, frankly, is one of race hatred and incitation and of ennoblement of every Negro in any jam with the law, even though the subject be known to his Negro neighbors as a worthless bad-man.

It was grievously unfair to the brave and conscientious New York policemen and to the decent Negroes of Harlem to handicap the law in Harlem and this riot was due in no small part to that policy:

New York
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.



COPS ROUND UP STORE LOOTERS—A line of feminine looters, their arms still full of merchandise snatched from wrecked stores, moves toward police trucks in Harlem.—International foto.

Known Facts of Sunday Night's And Monday Morning's Disturbances

AUG 7 1943

The Dead:

LUCAS, NEIL, address unknown, shot and killed at the Ringside Bar and Grill, 2118 Eighth ave, as he and another man kicked in the windows. Shot by the bartender, Justice Thornsberry.

RANDOLPH, VINCENT, 35, Route 2, Box 18, Savannah, Ga., shot by a patrolman as he ran from a store at Seventh ave and 136th st.

STOKES, STANLEY, of 504 Montgomery st, Savannah, Ga. Found with a gunshot wound at Seventh ave and 122d st. Died at Bellevue.

STONER, FRANK, 40, address not given, shot and killed by a patrolman as he fled from a luggage shop at 130 W. 125th st.

YOUNG, MICHAEL, 43, of 271 W. 113th st. Found dead of a gunshot wound at 2117 Eighth ave.

All are Negroes.

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THE NUMBER INJURED:

Police estimate of the number of persons injured is 500, including 40 colored and white policemen. Two of the latter were captains.

NUMBER ARRESTED:

Five hundred, 100 of whom were women. Those held in $10,000 bail included Margie Polite, age 35, 368 W. 127 st, and Florene Roberts, age 40, Mt. Vernon st, Middletown, Conn., alleged by the police to be the mother of Pvt. Robert Bandy and charged with acting in concert with him in interfering with arrest, and Pvt. James Longwood, age 21, Berkeley, Calif., charged with inciting to riot. The hearing of the women has been set down for August 11 and Pvt. Longwood for Friday.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

Estimated at $5,000,000, including broken glass, fire and looting.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DISTURBANCE:

The attempted arrest of a woman on disorderly conduct charges in the lobby of Hotel Braddock, 272 W. 126 st, at 7:30 Sunday afternoon, by Patrolman James Collins of the 28th police precinct, and the alleged interference of Pvt. Bandy, age 26, of the 730th Military Battalion of Jersey City, who was off duty. Rumor also played its part in the immediate cause of the disturbance, for while it is known that Pvt. Bandy seized the nightstick of Patrolman Collins, felled him with it and was in turn shot in the left shoulder by the patrolman, rumor spread to the effect that Bandy had been killed by a policeman in the presence of his mother. Bandy, born in Alabama but whose home address is given as New Haven, Conn., was described by the military authorities as a "good soldier."

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CITIZEN COOPERATION IN SUPPRESSION OF RIOTING AND LOOTING:

Fifteen hundred Negro civilian volunteers—including members of the City Patrol under command of Major Samuel J. Battles and air raid wardens—assisted the police in maintaining order and attempting to prevent looting.

CURFEW AND TRAFFIC REGULATION:

A 10:30 P.M. curfew is in effect in Harlem and the area bounded by 100 and 170 sts, North to East rivers. The dimout in the Harlem area has been temporarily abandoned. Traffic is being routed around the affected area.

OTHER KNOWN FACTS:

At 9:55 P.M. Monday night, Mayor LaGuardia, whose prompt action prevented a race riot, announced over the radio that the SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL.

YOUTH PICKED UP—Two policemen stand by as a youth wearing a silk topper and a tailcoat leaves a police car. Along with a couple of other boys wearing such unusual outfits he was brought into a police station for questioning after rioters and looters had wrecked hundreds of stores in a night-long outbreak of violence.—International foto.

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PV Official's Exclusive Interview with Pvt. Bandy

Interviewed by Ferdinand Smith as he lay in his Bellevue Hospital bed, Pvt. Robert Bandy had the following to say:

Q.—"How do you feel?"

A.—"I am somewhat nervous but do not feel so bad."

Q.—"How badly are you hurt?"

A.—"I do not know how badly I am hurt, but the fact that I am able to sit up and shake your hand, indicates that I am not too badly hurt."

Q.—"Would you like to send a message by me to your people?"

A.—"Yes, tell them that if I was out and in uniform, I would not agree to this rioting. In fact, they should cease rioting."

Press Group Continues Its Anti-Smear Campaign

The fight against metropolitan newspapers which misrepresent the Negro in reporting news is still being carried on by the Harlem Press Committee, the organization announced this week.

The committee intends to follow up the campaign initiated some time ago by the People's Committee to insure proper reporting of news concerning the Negro people by all of the New York dailies. It is further the intention of the committee to check on international developments relative to press smears. Members include Judge Hubert T. Delany, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, jr., Henry Craft, the Rev. John H. Johnson, John Becker, Walter White, Dr. Peyton F. Anderson and George H. Cohen.

POLICE EASE CURBS WITH HARLEM QUIET

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

But the 11:30 P. M. Curfew Is Continued—Liquor Sales Ban Ends Today

TRAFFIC NOW IS NORMAL

Negro Soldier Whose Actions Set Off Riot Turned Over to Military Officials

Quiet and calm reigned again in Harlem yesterday for the second day in succession following the riots Sunday night and Monday in which five were killed, 500 injured and 500 arrested, and which property damage estimated at $5,000,000 was done.

Mayor La Guardia ordered the 11:30 P. M. partial curfew continued last night, although he said things appeared to have returned to normal. Indicating his satisfaction with present conditions, the Mayor arranged to go to Washington today for a conference with Federal officials on food shortage. This was the trip he cancelled Monday.

The ban on liquor sales in the area, which had been under complete local prohibition since last Monday afternoon, will be lifted at 8 o'clock this morning, the State Liquor Authority announced.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine issued an order relieving the police at 8 o'clock this morning from the rigid requirements of "Chart No. 2 duty" which has been in effect since Monday. "Chart No. 2" calls for the police to work eight hours, remain on reserve eight hours and then work eight hours more before being eligible for sixteen hours off.

"Ninth Squad, Chart Six" duty will go into effect today. This requires eight hours duty daily on one shift for nine consecutive days, then eight hours daily on another shift for nine days, and finally 16 hours daily on a third shift for nine days. After twenty-seven successive days on duty, the police get thirty-two hours off under this system.

Many of the 6,000 police on guard in Harlem Monday and Tuesday were withdrawn yesterday, but the police strength in the district was still much larger than usual.

Normal traffic was resumed yesterday, with private automobiles, taxicabs and buses operating for the first time since the riot, according to Police Inspector Edmund J. Meade. The lifting of the ban on traffic in the district took place at 8 A. M. While the restriction was in effect, only milk and food trucks had been allowed to move through the streets, and then only under police escort.

Harlem merchants whose stores were wrecked and looted by the rioters had filed claims totaling more than $100,000 with the police yesterday. Those who could get new supplies of goods to sell, and who were not too much afraid of further rioting, reopened for business. Many stores had boarded windows and empty show cases.

On the boarded windows of some stores there had been painted the following quotation from one of Mayor La Guardia's radio broadcasts:

"Don't harm Harlem. Save your honor. Keep the peace."

Other signs read: "Business as Usual" and "Business Going On."

Two groups of Negro civic leaders called on Edward L. Coffey, chief district Office of Price Administration attorney, yesterday and made recommendations to improve enforcement of price ceilings in Harlem. They had been invited, he said, "to find out what OPA can do to help the situation in Harlem." One group included Lester B. Granger, executive director, and Warren M. Banner, research director of the National Urban League. The other was headed by Charles A. Collier, executive secretary of the City-Wide Citizens Committee on Harlem. Mr. Coffey, who said that price enforcement in Harlem had not been neglected, announced that he would study the recommendations made by the two groups.

"There were six OPA investigators operating in Harlem yesterday and ten today to check on price compliance," he said.

Private Robert Bandy, the 26-year-old Negro soldier attached to a Military Police outfit in Jersey City, who is charged with attacking a white policeman who was arresting a Negro woman in a Harlem hotel and thus starting the riot Sunday night, was turned over to the military authorities yesterday. Private Bandy was released from the prison ward at Bellevue Hospital yesterday afternoon and was arraigned before Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio in Felony Court on a charge of felonious assault. Arraigned with him was Private John Logwood, a Negro, of the Thirty-fourth Aviation Squadron at Matchel Field, L. I., charged with inciting to riot.

At the request of Lieut. Col. A. A. Melniker, of the staf fof the Judge Advocate's office of the Second Service Command, Governors Island, Assistant District Attorney Whitman Knapp asked for dismissal of the charges against both soldiers.

Granting the request and turning the men over to Colonel Melniker, Magistrate Aurelio said: "It is fortunate that the military authorities are interested in getting these men. I am sure that each defendant will get his just deserts."

The soldiers were taken to Governors Island by military police in an Army truck.

The police said that about 3:30 A. M. Monday Cross, who was absent from duty without official leave, went to a furnished room at 31 West 110th Street, changed his uniform for civilian clothes and then went to West 135th Street to join the rioters. Policeman Solman said he caught the man with liquor, cigarettes, two suits and shoes. A charge of receiving stolen property was dismissed so that he could be sent to Governors Island.

Burt Gilbert, owner of the Hotel Braddock at 272 West 126th Street, near Eighth Avenue, where the trouble started Sunday night, voluntarily closed the hotel yesterday. He first asked the police to withdraw the police detail of six men assigned to raided premises duty there and closed down when this request was refused. Gilbert is awaiting a hearing on the charge of failing to keep a record of all guests.

Fourteen men and six women who had been arrested in a house-to-house canvass searching for loot appeared in the line-up at police headquarters. The police recovered thousands of dollars with or stolen furniture, musical instruments, radios, foodstuffs and clothing from the prisoners, who were charged with receiving and possessing stolen property.

Labor

Afro-American

3 Classes of People in Harlem Terror, Need for More Cops Less[illegible] Riots

Baltimore, Md.

By EDWARD S. LEWIS

Harlem Miracle

NEW YORK—Hell broke loose in Harlem Sunday night and early Monday, August 1 and 2. Unorganized mobs roamed an area of three square miles, smashed windows, looted everything in sight. That we escaped a major catastrophe with the possibilities of the nation's worst race riot will remain one of the miracles of this century.

Organized labor played an extremely important role in helping to restore peace and order. Ferdinand Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union, was in one of those sound trucks that moved up and down Harlem's streets in the midst of the melee and tried to urge the rioters to return to their homes. It was worth one's life to try and pacify those angry citizens who had exploded over the shooting of a soldier by a white policeman.

Mr. Smith distinguished three different classes of people. "There were the hoodlums," he said, "who exploit any situation and act just alike whether it is a street riot in Paris, a bombing in London, or a riot in Detroit." In adition, "There were the underemployed, the people who never make enough wages to buy the basic necessities, and to this group the opportunity for looting and pillaging presented a Roman holiday."

Finally, "There were workers, who ordinarily are good citizens, whose first reaction was one of disgust and reversion, but who were swept away by the passions of the mob." It is important to remember that the psychology of the crowd or the mob is not racial, but human.

Policemen Needed

Because Mayor and Police Commissioner Valentine appreciated this fact, we missed a massacre by an eyelash. Our leaders were appealed to for a mobilization of volunteers to work alongside white policemen. The City Industrial Council sent 500 workers to volunteer under Commissioner Samuel Battle.

The New York Urban League in less than five hours mobilized 150 men who had already siged up as emergency policemen. White policemen and city officials were glad to have 1500 colored volunteers with billy clubs and arm bands standing by with them in the midst of milling dangerous caowds. Commissioner Valentine had already assured [illegible] that he wanted more colored [illegible] policemen, and after this outbreak we can all appreciate how important it is to have ten times as many policemen of color as we now have.

Lesson in Riots

Ten truckloads of white soldiers rolled up to Seventh Avenue and 125th Street and attempted to stretch a cordon across the street. The boos and jeers of the crowd were so menacing that an alert officer ordered them back into the truck and they were off as quicgkly as they came. On the other hand, a contingent of colored and white M.P.'s appeared on the scene and were cheered by the mob.

There are invaluable lessons in these riots for countless public officials. Take the colored community into the leaders' picture even before an emergency. You can't make it without them. Appoint scores of colored police and firemen not alone to help colored people, but save white people when teh going gets tough. The prize shot in my opinion was that of colored workers standing off the mob and protecting their white employers.

Incidentally many of the establishments that hire large percentages of colored workers were undamaged. I wonder if that means anything?

Powell Asks Action on Riot Causes

The recent Harlem outbreak can happen again, and on a bigger and bloodier scale, "unless the underlying causes are removed," City Councilman Adam Clayton Powell said in a statement to the press yesterday.

Councilman Powell, recalling that he had suggested in City Council several weeks ago "a method which would have helped, in his statement yesterday "some of the things that can and must be done to prevent a repetition of the disorders. Those things he listed as follows:

"We must immediately have removed from the control for New York City as of [illegible] March 1943. This would instantly [illegible] relieve much of the resentment of the Negro people."

"We must immediately request "Joints like the Hotel Bradford, Empire State [illegible] Saturday announced the opening of a branch office on Aug. 11 in the [illegible] Harlem area.

"We must request of OPA that more Negroes be added to the OPA staff, that more Negroes be added to the ration boards, and that more investigators be assigned to the 135th St. Branch [illegible]

"We must immediately request of the New York Public Library, basement of the [illegible] to abolish jim-crow [illegible] forces.

Mr. Powell's suggestion [illegible] spect to the Office of Price Administration (OPA) had seemingly been anticipated by the New York Dis-ceive reports concerning [illegible] New York Building, riots in Harlem Tuesday [illegible] state, which last released the [illegible] Wednesday. Two censor [illegible] the opening of newspapers featured the line, "Riot [illegible] Aug. 11 in the Kept Secret Three Days."

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New York

DISGRACEFUL SCENES ENACTED AS HOODLUM ELEMENTS LOOT STORES; 195 HURT--363 JAILED

Pittsburgh Pa Courier
AUG 7 1943

By BILLY ROWE, Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Aug. 2—This city's sprawling Harlem, world's largest Negro city, is licking its wounds today . . . and order is slowly being restored, in the wake of widespread rioting, which has so far cost a known total of six lives . . . injury to 195 . . . and the jailing of 363, with the list rapidly swelling.

AUG 7 1943

For the benefit of our readers . . . the trouble which broke out here Sunday evening and lasted into the dawning hours . . . was not a race riot. By no stretch of the imagination can the thing be termed such. It was the violent outbreak of irresponsible persons gone crazy with mob-fever, who took it upon themselves to defy established law and order . . . breaking windows of business establishments, roaming the streets looking for trouble, using insulting epithets at police officials, defying those race leaders who attempted to give them the facts. These people wanted no facts . . . they would not heed the truth!

All they wanted was an excuse to "start something" . . . an opportunity to hit the "headlines" . . . the urge to destroy!

Their actions were a disgrace to the community in which they lived, the nation to which they owe their allegiance and to the race of which they are a part.

Today Harlem is a "walled city" . . . stretching from 110th street to 155th street. No whitesare allowed into the area . . . and trouble-making youngsters and those Negroes without cause to be on the move, are allowed out.

Police, armed troops, and plain-clothesmen, are patrolling the area . . . keeping a watchful eye on developments.

These men have been instructed NOT to "shoot to kill" and to use all the patience and forbearance which is theirs, to keep down trouble.

They are doing a real job of it and unless something untoward occurs, there should be no more trouble.

Race leaders have been most co-operative. Dr. John H. Johnson, colored police chaplain and Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP, toured Harlem in a police loudspeaker truck, explaining the facts.

Walter White, secretary of the NAACP, conferred with Mayor LaGuardia early today. He is seeking Negro MP's to supplement the white MP's now on duty. Neither A. Philip Randolph, head of the MOW movement, nor Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., city councilman, could be reached for statements.

The windows of the MOW headquarters were broken, but neither The Theresa hotel nor the local offices of The Pittsburgh Courier were bothered.

For long blocks on Seventh and Eighth avenues, business establishments of places owned by whites had their windows smashed in. Looting was one of the major police headaches during the night and authorities sought to minimize loss by removing stocks to station houses.

Early in the evening, Mayor La Guardia, who incidentally spent the entire night in Harlem directing the 5,000 patrolmen and the 1,000 detectives—wearing white air raid helmets—was booed when he attempted to make a direct appeal to the people from the steps of a Harlem police station. Then it was that he ordered all traffic off surrounding streets.

The disturbances were touched off when Patrolman James Collins, white, attempted to arrest a woman on a charge of intoxication.

Private Robert Bandy, 26, of Middletown, Conn., apparently resented Collins' attitude, grabbed the patrolman's nightstick and beat him over the head with it. Collins, according to police reports, drew his service revolver and shot the soldier in the shoulder. Bandy was taken to a hospital where his condition was reported as good.

The trouble between the policeman and the soldier occurred outside a Harlem hotel.

Apparently everything was under control, when rumor-mongers started the circulation of stories giving conflicting reports of what actually did happen.

Crowds started gathering. Disgruntled persons started talking. Suddenly a brick was tossed through a window and the rioting was on in full force.

Mayor LaGuardia went on the air twice during the height of the rioting, appealing to "decent, law abiding citizens of Harlem" to help curb the wave of disorders.

The Mayor spoke over all major radio stations in the city from the West 123rd Street police station. He said:

"A large number of extra policemen have been assigned, and ex-the reserves have been called out.

All traffic is being detoured and all liquor stores will be closed until further notice.

"There may be difficulty in getting normal sale of food today, but we will get busy on that at once.

"We cannot permit any gathering of crowds and I ask for the co-operation of the people of Harlem."

The Mayor then added that a group of citizens would address Harlem residents throughout the day through amplifiers set up in strategic places. He added:

"I ask the people to listen and co-operate."

HOSPITALS JAMMED; STATIONS FILLED!

Harlem hospitals were overflowing with injured men and women . . . practically all colored. Some were being treated in corridors and as the injured list increased, police began taking patients to hospitals in other sections of the city.

Four civilians were killed by gunfire. Bottles and bricks rained down from rooftops as 6,000 police threw a cordon around Harlem and sought to quell disorders.

Bullets, knife wounds, bottles, fists and bricks accounted for most of the injuries.

RIOT DEAD:

VINCENT RANDOLPH, 35, Savannah, Ga.

STANLEY STOKES, 20, Savannah, Ga.

FRANK STONER, 40, New York City.

MICHAEL YOUNG, 42, New York City.

NEIL LUCAS, New York City.

An Unidentiifed Man.

AUG 7 1943

HARLEM RIOT CLAIMS HEAVY

Courier
SEP 11 1943

NEW YORK, Sept. 9—Property owners have filed approximately 800 claims totaling about $4,000,000 against New York City for damages sustained during the August 1 Harlem disorders, Norman L. Marks, counsel for the Uptown Chamber of Commerce reported Wednesday.

Glass and burglary losses during the riot amounted to not more than $225,000, according to a survey by the Association of Casualty and Surety Executive made public this week.

The losses indicate that the glass loss to stock casualty companies will approximate $100,000, compared to previous estimate by other sources of $320,000 to $750,000. It is estimated that the burglary loss should not exceed $125,000.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

More Play Areas Urged in Harlem By Council to Help Curb Unrest

New York Times

Resolution Adopted After Debate on Whether Lack of Recreation Caused Riot— All School Facilities Are in Operation

New York, N. Y.—After debating for an hour on whether lack of recreational facilities had caused the Harlem disorders, the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution yesterday requesting Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and the Board of Education to open enough full-time playgrounds for children this summer.

Simultaneously Francis J. Brennan, assistant director of the division of recreational and community activities of the Board of Education, declared that while the number of playgrounds had no marked effect upon the outbreak of riots, there was an "urgent and prssing need" for more facilities throughout the city as well as in Harlem.

"You can't run playgrounds unless you have money to pay for them," Mr. Brennan declared. "We requested $374,848 in appropriations and received $175,000. We've stretched the budget as far as we can."

Describing recreation as "education functioning informally," he said the best way for children to get along was to play together, but that results would be visible only after a long time. Recreation, he pointed out, could not be used like a pill for a headache.

Debate in the Council

During the council debate, Mrs. Genevieve B. Earle, Brooklyn Fusionist, contended that "most of the offenders were adults and not children, and I am not sure that more playgrounds will do much to change conditions." The Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., American Labor party member, replied that 375 of 400 rioters arraigned in Felony Court were in their 'teens.

Mrs. Earle, seeking to justify the city administration's playground policy, read a long list of recreational facilities that are now open to the public. In reply Majority Leader Joseph T. Sharkey said the administration was "too intent on piling up statistics" and was not giving adequate consideration to placing these facilities where they were needed.

He was supported in this views by several other members of the Council who, while supporting Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs resolution calling for more playgrounds, did not think a lack of them led to the rioting in Harlem.

Councilman Walter R. Hart, Brooklyn Democrat, attributed the rioting to the city's depleted police force rather than to lack of playgrounds, saying it was "false economy to save a couple of thousands dollars a year by not appointing poice officers to vacancies and then winding up with a $5,000,000 lawsuit on your hands."

The root of the evil in Harelm was sociological in nature, he said, adding:

"Parks and playgrounds can't help an empty stomach, can't solve the question of miserable living quarters, and can't take the place of a mother and father who have to go out and work to keep the family alive."

Members of the majority and minority joined, however, in praising the Mayor and the police force "for a fine job done in handling the most delicate situation the city has faced in years."

Playgrounds in Harlem

According to Mr. Brennan, all fourteen playgrounds in the Harlem area will remain open five days a week until Aug. 31. He commended the recreational supervisors, all of whom reported for duty the day after the disorders, and urged continuance of the regular playground schedule.

Three of the playgrounds—at Public School 68, on 128th Street between Lexington and Seventh Avenues; Public School 113, at 113th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, and Public School 139, on 140th Street east of Sev-enth Avenue—are open from 9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. The first two opened June 15 and the third a month later.

Eight others that opened July 1, with recreational periods from 1:30 to 5:30 P. M., include: P. S. 80, at Fifth Avenue; P. S. 43, at 129th Street and Amsterdam Avenue; P. S. 186, at 145th Street west of Amsterdam Avenue.

NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 16—Mrs. Margie Polite, 35-year-old, three whose argument with a policeman and the one at P. S. 101, in the lobby of the Hotel Braddock, Street west of Lexington Eighth avenue and 126th street, last month, brought about the shooting of the Negro soldier and the subsequent Harlem rioting, was sentenced to one year on probation last week by Magistrate Charles E. Ramsgate in the Probation court. Mrs. Polite has been a prisoner since the night of her arrest.

STARTING N.Y. RIOT
AUG 16 1943
Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier
GETS PROBATION FOR

HARLEM UNREST TRACED TO LONG-STANDING ILLS

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Basic Racial Problem Seen Sharpened By New Complaints Born of War

AUG 8 1943

RUSSELL B. PORTER

THEY HAVE SIMILAR OBJECTIVES



New York Times, Associated Press

Mayor La Guardia, left, and Councilman A. Clayton Powell, would eliminate causes of last week's disorders in Harlem.

Last week's riot in Harlem, with its toll of five dead, 500 injured, 500 arrested, and an estimated $5,000,000 in property damage, was a social explosion in a powder keg that has been years in the filling. The Harlem problem is a racial one, rooted in the Negro's dissatisfaction with his racial status not only in Harlem but all over the country, and exhibited in his efforts, sometimes intelligent and moderate, sometimes blind and extreme, to break down the economic and social discriminations, barriers and frustrations which at times seem unbearable.

In Harlem and other Negro districts where all told 500,000 persons live, there is no question that an ugly mood has existed for some years, especially among the younger Negroes. This condition is not peculiar to New York. As all reports make clear, the reflection of a nation-wide attitude—a feeling of resentment and bitterness which came to a head in the depression years and has been nourished by a variety of old and new grievances, many of them real, some fancied or exaggerated, but all being exploited by pressure groups and subversive, anti-democratic elements.

Long-Standing Complaints

The tinderbox of Harlem was started many years ago when Negro segregation and overcrowding gradually transformed much of that historic community into a slum area—a "black ghetto." These conditions were terribly aggravated in the depression years. Negroes were among the first to lose their jobs. Poverty, misery and crime increased rapidly. Later, when New York became known all over the country for its relief system, new waves of immigrants began arriving from the South, and Harlem became more overcrowded than ever.

The start of the war in Europe brought new problems and accentuated old ones in Harlem. Since Pearl Harbor the principal cause of unrest in Harlem and other Negro communities has been complaint of discrimination and Jim Crow treatment of Negroes in the armed forces, according to responsible Negro leaders. Visits and letters from Negro soldiers and articles in the Negro press keep Harlem continually reminded of the tension in Southern States where Negro troops are stationed.

War Jobs a Factor

Closely linked to the status of the Negro in the armed services in breeding resentment is that of his status as a worker, particularly in war plants. Not until labor shortages began to threaten war production, Negro leaders say, could Negro workers break down the reluctance of many employers and labor unions to give them jobs in any large number. Even now, they charge, the Negro worker has to contend with many subtle discriminations, especially in upgrading for better jobs.

Students of the problem agree that the most important long-range factor is the question of employment, for the refusal to give work to Negroes or their confinement to menial, low-paid jobs regardless of merit, not only breaks down morale and increases disillusionment but also aggravates the other basic causes to which Negro leaders attribute trouble in Harlem—bad housing conditions, inadequate educational and recreational facilities, substandard health and hospital service, and crime and delinquency.

Much has been done and is being done to improve the situation. After the 1935 riot, the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem made a report which was critical of certain aspects of the way the problem had been handled. Although the report was never released, the Mayor has put many of its recommendations into effect. There has been improvement in police methods, housing, health, educational and recreational services. Steps taken against discrimination in civil service examinations have brought more Negroes into the city departments.

Other Corrective Steps

The City-Wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem organized in 1941 with outstanding white and Negro leaders among its officers and directors, has succeeded through cooperation with city officials and private employers, in persuading some large department stores, insurance companies and public utilities to employ Negroes in larger numbers and in better jobs than ever before.

One of the outstanding Negro leaders of the community, Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, is convinced that much more could be done if there were better leadership among both the whites and Negroes who are actively interested in the problem. He thinks the Negro leadership should return to the more moderate bands in which it was held before 1934 and 1935, when Communists and other extremist advocates of "mass pressure" took over, and that the white leadership should include more practical business men and labor leaders and fewer sentimentalists, professional liberals and the like.

HARLEM RETURNS TO NORMAL WAYS

AUG 6 1943

Traffic Resumes, Looted Shops Reopen and Ban on Sales of Liquor Is Lifted

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

POLICE GUARD REDUCED

Woolley Tours Riot Area and Pledges Full Cooperation in Sending Food

Another quiet day was reported from Harlem yesterday, the third in succession since the end of the riots in which five Negroes were killed Sunday night and Monday.

Traffic was back to normal inside the district and between Harlem and other parts of the city, many of the wrecked and looted stores were open again and the liquor shops, taverns and bars, closed since Sunday night, resumed business at 8 A. M.

One bar to reopen was that in the Hotel Braddock, Eighth Avenue and West 126th Street, where the riot started Sunday night with an attack by a Negro soldier on a white policeman and the subsequent slight wounding of the soldier. The rest of the hotel was closed by action of the owner after the authorities had refused to remove six policemen stationed there after the riot because it was "raided premises."

Police forces were reduced again from Monday's show of force when 6,000 men on duty included reserves called in from all over the city and from all police outfits.

Plenty of Food Available

Plenty of food appeared available, in contrast to the situation immediately after the riot, when stores were closed because they had been looted of their stocks or were afraid of further mob action, when milk and food trucks did not dare enter the district without police escort, and when deliveries of all kinds were temporarily suspended.

Daniel P. Woolley, City Commissioner of Markets, made an hour's tour of the damaged stores in company with aides and a group of merchants. After viewing empty shelves, broken cash registers, floors covered with wreckage, smashed windows and other debris, and hearing the stories of storekeepers whose goods had been stolen, Mr. Woolley said that he would give every possible cooperation.

Herman Banks, 40 years old, a Negro, who was arrested early Monday at 126th Street and Eighth Avenue, was the first person convicted of carrying a dangerous weapon during the riots. The police said he had a knife in his belt when arrested at the height of the looting, and claimed to have found it. Convicted yesterday, he was held without bail in Special Sessions for sentence on Aug. 13.

In the Felony Court three prisoners accused of burglary during the riots pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and received jail sentences of sixty, twenty and ten days respectively. Twenty-one defendants waived hearings and were held for General Sessions or Special Sessions. Thirty-one cases were adjourned.

AUG 6 1943

Mutual Accord Urged

A "Statement on Race Riots," issued yesterday by the National Peace Conference, which comprises twenty-nine national organizations, urged Americans of all creeds and colors to seek mutual understanding, and called on Federal, State and local agencies throughout the nation to investigate and ameliorate social and economic inequalities underlying racial dissensions.

The statement said:

"Violence among citizens of the United States leaves a deep scar upon American principles and traditions. Those traditions, historic, political and religious, uphold freedom, equality and opportunity for all. Therefore, we the undersigned members of the National Peace Conference, express in sorrow and humility our reaction to the recent outbreaks of mob fury in certain sections of our country.

"Realizing that the fatherhood of God includes the corollary of the brotherhood of man and that the American democratic way of life eschews racial hatred and prejudice, we call upon Americans of whatever color or creed determinedly to seek understanding one with another. Furthermore, we ask Federal, State and local

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Check to Relieve Misery in Detroit

MINNEAPOLIS. — (ANP) — A Minneapolis white man, hope that it might help in relieving some of the misery created in Detroit."

In a letter to Cecil Newman, a campaign worker, the donor said: "The enclosed $25 is [illegible] with the

JUL 23 1943

ant, with offices in the Build-

ers Exchange, sent an unsolicited $25 to the Minneapolis N. A. A. C. P. membership drive this week.

Call Mo.

Kansas City, Kansas

White Man Sends

NEW YORK

City Trucks Bring Meat to Harlem

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
AUG 5 1943

Harlem won't go hungry while it rebuilds its devastated areas, the Daily Worker learned yesterday.

Commissioner of Markets Daniel P. Woolley through his department has been sending foodstuffs into Harlem by the tons and a spokesman for the department said food will be available to Harlem housewives in sufficient quantities until the shopping districts, wrecked by mobs at the beginning of the week, are rebuilt and open once again for trade.

Several tons of meat were shipped into Harlem yesterday morning through the Department of Markets. The meats were quickly parceled and distributed to key sections of the Harlem area where it was immediately put on sale. Meanwhile milk and bread was being sold directly from city trucks on street corners.

One of the first steps taken by the Commissioner's office, the Daily Worker was told, was to redouble the usual quantity of foodstuffs sold in the big Park Ave. public market running from 111th St. to 116th St. Thousands of pounds of vegetables, meats and general food products were shipped to the market during the period immediately following cessation of the rioting.

LAUD OFFICIALS

It was also learned that upwards of two hundred stores were restocked with foods and thrown open to the Harlem public during the past few days.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Hulan Jack, in the continuations meeting of the emergency committee called Tuesday evening to consider the riotous outbreaks in Harlem, proposed a people's program to correct what he described as the "jim crow ills of the community." His program would embody the opinions of the Negro community in addition to those of patriotic white citizens.

Assemblyman Jack supported a proposal by Benjamin J. Davis, Communist leader in Harlem, for the immediate convening of a conference embracing all Negro, labor, civic, church and other organizations to work out a people's unified program. Such a program, Mr. Jack pointed out, could be carried out in cooperation with the Mayor and other win-the-war leaders of that reelection, who will make any sort of dastardly statement about a serious situation, if they think it might further their political ends.

"I repeat, the Majority Leader and the other Democratic Councilmen who yesterday had the nerve and the brazen gall to infer that the Mayor and his Administration were in any way responsible for what happened in Harlem because not sufficient funds were allowed the Police and Education Departments, are the very people who cut a million dollars from the Police Department, and a half million from the Education Department, which were fortunately restored to the Budget only by the fact that they were not able to override the Mayor's veto on most of these items.

"The Council can thank its lucky stars that the Mayor had the fortitude and the foresight to override their demagogic actions in vetoing their cuts because if he hadn't, they could well be the object of any finger pointing today. Just the other day after the rent hearings, the Majority Leader, half-mouthing the man he is stooging for, Walter Hoving, who said the budget could be cut by another $20,000,000, declared that the budget could be cut by an additional $10,000,000.

"I am going to let the Park Commission deal with their statements and actions about the Park Department."

Harlem leaders, among them Miss Dorothy Funn, of the Negro Labor Victory Committee confirmed the fact that the city has been straining every resource to get ample quantities of food into Harlem.

A battle flared up in the City Council yesterday when Council president Newbold Morris blasted Brooklyn Democrats Hart and Cohen who had charged on the council floor the day previously that the Harlem situation had developed, not because of any economic situation, but because there were not sufficient police in Harlem.

In a statement issued to the press yesterday, Mr. Morris declared:

"The actions of the Majority Leader of the Council and some of his colleagues yesterday are really repulsive. They would like to have their cake and eat it.

"Not long ago, they demagogued themselves into a phony economy program and proceeded to live up to the statements they were making for political consumption, with the Fall elections in view, by cutting from the Budget more than a million dollars in the Police Department, and more than a half million dollars in the Department of Education.

MAYOR VETOED CUTS

"Fortunately, the Mayor vetoed the cuts which they made and his veto was sustained in the main. By so doing, the Mayor prevented the Council from reducing the Police Department's strength by 600 temporary patrolmen and 200 patrolmen, who were to be made available by the appointment of 200 precinct clerks who would relieve them of their duties in station houses. He also prevented the Council from making deep cuts into the Bureau of Attendance of the Department of Education, which Bureau handles truancy. The preventive effects of the proper maintenance of this Bureau are well recognized.

"Yesterday," Mr. Morris continued, "following the masterful handling of the situation in Harlem by the Mayor and the Police, the Democratic Councilman had the temerity to state that what happened in Harlem couldn't have happened if their policy with respect to the Police Department and Education Department had been followed. These men are absolutely brazen and unscrupulous in their complete diregard, not only of facts but of their own actions.

"Here we have a body of men supposed to representing the people of the City, but interested only in their reelection and the benefits that they personally will derive from

Citizens of Harlem cooperated closely with law enforcement authorities and were gratified that the situation had finally subsided.

Trade unions and various civic organizations continued to send letters and wires of congratulations to city officials and the police department lauding the intelligent and efficient manner in which the near disastrous affair was handled. Among those who commended Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine was Miss Jane Benedict, president of the Book and Magazine Union, Local 18, CIO.

DETROIT CONTRASTED

"It is most gratifying to all of us," Miss Benedict wrote, "that the police of New York City handled themselves in marked contrast with the brutal methods of the police force in Detroit, Mobile and other cities where such incidents have led to even more serious race riots."

A similar letter was sent to Mayor La Guardia, in which Miss Benedict stated, "It is very apparent to the members of this Union the striking contrast between the New York City administration's attitude towards such an incident and the methods used in other cities. It is equally apparent, however, that the fundamental causes of the Harlem incident are due to the segregation and the discrimination suffered by the Negro people of this city. Such segregation and exploitation, due to exorbitant prices and rents, are bound to produce an explosive situation."

Recover From Wild Outbreak

Call

Kansas City, Mo.

Destruction in Area Widespread; 5 Dead, 500 Hurt

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Riot-scarred Harlem returned to normal over the week-end as police moved to recover some of the more than $5,000,000 loot stolen from business places; as court officials worked to reduce calendars choked with defendants suspected of riot activities, and as social workers, city officials and Harlem itself, sought an explanation for the sudden outburst of violence and destruction that engulfed the tight Negro capital of America, Sunday night, August 1, and Monday morning, Aug. 2.

The actual total showed five persons killed, not six; over 500 injured and more than 1,000 arrested. The number of injured probably went over the 1,000 mark but did not figure in the official total since hundreds didn't seek first aid at the hospitals and other public dispensaries and went to private physicians or to friends instead. Of the arrests 100 were women.

Destruction Wide-Spread

From 110th street, bounding Central park, to 155th street where the viaduct bridges the gap between Sugar Hill and the Bronx, evidences of the destruction wrought could be seen. Boarded windows bore mute testimony to the fury of the ravaging mobs who roamed the streets Sunday night and Monday morning, stealing, plundering and burning.

Many businesses were wiped out completely. Matthew J. Eder, white, executive secretary of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Harlem Chamber of Commerce, said that the figure of $5,000,000 would prove "conservative" for the damage wreaked on food, liquor and clothing stores, taverns and pawnshops. Said he:

"Many businesses were wiped out. This applied particularly to the liquor stores whose destroyed and stolen stocks cannot be replaced."

Liquor Stores Reopen

Last Thursday morning liquor stores, taverns, bars, and grills reopened their doors for the first time since Sunday night. It was a cautious reopening as though the owners were still afraid to run the risk of exposing their depleted liquor stocks to a public they thought they knew so well but whom they found out they didn't know at all.

At noon Thursday few of the taverns had customers on hand. Ordinarily such places are doing booming business from 9 a. m. until closing time. Stores dealing in merchandise, clothing, food, etc., were in operation in many instances on Tuesday morning, even though their windows were boarded from the sidewalk up.

The mobs that ravaged Harlem are today the object of public scorn from Harlemites. It is broadly felt that the Negroes who participated in the rioting only injured themselves. Tailor shops, cleaning and dyeing establishments, taverns and liquor stores owned by Negroes, places owned by whites but managed or staffed by Negroes, were indiscriminately wrecked.

Women Aid Zoot-Suiters

The spectacle of Negro women in the role of human jackal plundering, looting and destroying property side by side with zoot-suited hoodlums will take a long time to be erased from the minds of law-abiding Negro and white

In the excitement of the fact that "It Did Happen Here," the motivating circumstances of the disturbances have been overlooked

Police night attempted to It is now a matter of record that Bandy interfered with Collins as the latter tried to arrest Miss Polite. Bandy, attached to the 730th M. P. regiment in New Jersey City, was in the lobby of the Braddock hotel with his mother checking out. He noted that two women and three men who had rented a room were requesting their money back.

Collins stick as the latter attempted to arrest the Polite woman in the lobby of the infamous Braddock hotel, is sure to face army court martial on charges of inciting to riot or interfering with police officer duty.

Bandy, wounded in the legs, is almost sure to be summarily dealt with when she comes before the court on charges of disturbing the peace as pre- How It All Started

All the money was refunded by the desk clerk except one dollar, according to Asst. Dist. Atty. Francis E. Rivers, who checked on this angle of the situation. The room clerk then asked the five to wait at the desk until the elevator operator came downstairs before they were to get the rest of their money.

The woman, Mr. Rivers said, became very disorderly and Policeman Collins was called to the desk by the clerk to keep order. As the officer started pushing Miss Polite out, Bandy intervened, remarking to Collins: "You wouldn't do that to one of your group."

Collins and the soldier then closed in in a fight and Collins threw his night stick at the soldier but missed; Bandy's mother and sweetheart declared. The soldier's mother then put in her piece as her son picked up the nightstick. Collins ordered the soldier to drop the stick and then fired a shot.

The bullet struck Bandy in the upper part of his shoulder. The wound was not serious. By that time the crowd which had gathered, got unruly to the point where members of the group attacked the policeman.

Rumor Spreads Fast

The rumor, meanwhile, spread like lightning throughout Harlem that a Negro soldier had been killed by a white policeman in the Braddock lobby and that the mother of the soldier had been kicked and beaten by the same officer. That was the spark.

The one notable fact was apparent in all the tumultuous events that transpired that Sunday night and Monday morning: few white persons were molested or even threatened as nearly 50,000 Negroes ran riot through Harlem's canyon-like streets.

The police, and their number was augmented by thousands rushed in from Queens, from Brooklyn, Staten Island, Jamaica and other points, plus members of the civilian patrol and army units, were almost reverential in their abstention from meeting violence from the mob with violence.

The few shots that were fired were fired in the air. The use of clubs by the policemen were also restricted to comparatively few heads.

The cops stood, in many cases, idly by and allowed looters to enter stores in 125th street and cart off clothes, furniture, radios, clocks, etc. Three children, all around 10 years old, were loading their arms with shoes from the window shelves of a store. A policeman went to them as they were walking away and said: "You can't take that stuff. Put it back." They did.

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No Race Riot

Said one tall, blonde young policeman: "These people are hungry and sick and tired of being kicked around. They're not mad at New York white people; they're mad at what New York and all white people own and won't let them have. This ain't no race riot. "Them kids out there are having a heluva time stealing things they've wanted all their lives and never got a chance to get until this thing came along."

Many of the rioters were in their 'teens and early '20's. Mayor LaGuardia said Monday that the gangs were unorganized and easily broken up but they were organized enough to do millions of dollars worth of damage. The gangs ran from 50 to 60 persons. Some were smaller. Girls and children took part in the looting.

Most of the 500 injured were hurt by bottles and stones thrown from roof-tops.

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Stores Wrecked

Stores throughout the Harlem area were wrecked and looted. The worst damage was down on the main arterial streets, West 125th, W. 135th, W. 145th, Fifth Ave., Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Aves.

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On 125th St., from Nicholas to Fifth Ave., 400 broken windows were counted. Of 40 liquor stores, 30 had been broken into and cleaned of their whole stock.

The vast majority of all looted stores were owned by white persons, but Negro-owned stores suffered along with the others.

Of the 17 pawn shops in the Harlem area, eight reported that their loss was between $15,000 and $25,000. Matthew J. Eder, executive secretary of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, who surveyed the district said the damage was five times as great as it was in the Harlem riot of 1935.

Mayor LaGuardia worked quickly and effectively to quell the disorders. He took personal command of the situation and worked over 24 hours without sleep until order was restored.

The mayor made four broadcasts to the people of Harlem. The first was at 1:05 a.m. when the rioting was at its height. The second was at 8 a.m., the third at 9:05 a.m., and the fourth at 9:55 p.m. Monday, after the disorder was under control.

Not Race Riot

In all of his broadcasts, the mayor emphasized that the violence was not in any sense a race riot but was an internal upheaval on the part of "thoughtless hoodlums."

"Shame has come to our city," he said, "and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem district. I saw the recklessness of this mob in action. Strange to say, there was no concerted action. Groups of hoodlums acted on their own initiative. Most of the injured persons were victims of their own neighbors."

In another address, Mayor LaGuardia said:

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"I expect from the people of Harlem the fullest cooperation today and tonight and until complete order is restored. Traffic will be limited . . . We want to keep people from other parts of the city away from Harlem. Any who attempt to enter the damaged stores in Harlem will be prosecuted to the fullest."

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To quell the disorders, 7,000 policemen were stationed in Harlem. In addition, 1,500 Negro persons were commissioned by Mayor LaGuardia to assist in maintaining order. They were armed with nightsticks and equipped with identification badges. They aided police in patrolling the district in an effort to keep order.

A 10:30 p.m. curfew was imposed in Harlem Monday night. Harlem was not declared "off limits" for soldiers but all army men in the area would be challenged to give legitimate reasons for being there. The curfew hour was advanced to 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night.

Soldiers Rescue Man

The West 123rd police station was full of stolen meat, clothing, furniture, liquor, canned goods and groceries—picked up from the street as looters fled.

A white man, attacked by a group of hoodlums, was rescued by Negro soldiers. An unoccupied car was burned.

Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. executive secretary, and other Negro leaders backed up Mayor LaGuardia's action. White said to the mayor:

"I approve most emphatically every word you have stated. The decent people of Harlem will stand by you and back you to the limit to restore order immediately to Harlem and to New York City."

AUG

Short of Food

The day after the riot, all Harlem was short of food. Delivery trucks did not go into the area and the stock of most grocery stores was depleted in the looting.

Chain stores and super-markets fared worse than the smaller stores. Every article of merchandise was taken from many stores and in some even the shelves were taken.

Milk was the only commodity delivered in Harlem Monday. Deliveries were made under police guard. Some store deliveries could not be made because there was no one on hand to receive it.

Only a few restaurants were open Monday, but those open were doing a good business. Service was slow, however, as many waitresses and cooks failed to report for work.

The OPA said that merchants whose stock of rationed goods was stolen or destroyed could get new allowances by filling out Form R-3[illegible].

All of New York has been dimmed out nightly for several months. Following the riot, the 115-watt bulbs used in the dimout were replaced by bright 340-watt bulbs. Instead of a dimout, Harlem is now bright with light at night. The suspension of the dimout is for a "limited time" only.

AUG

Bright Li[illegible]on

The bright lights are on in the area from 110th to 155th Sts., and from Fifth Ave., to St. Nicholas Ave. The sale of liquor is banned in the area from 100th to 179th Sts., and from the Hudson to the East r[illegible].

AUG 13 1943

The whole business district of Harlem looked like a storm had torn through the area.

An investigation is now under way to determine whether Ku Klux [illegible] agents inspired the riot.

AUG 13 1943

On Monday night, the city council adopted a resolution urging the mayor and the board of estimate to provide more money for playgrounds in Harlem.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HARLEM'S TRAGEDY

Mayor La Guardia was correct in the literal meaning of his words when he said that the disturbances which began in Harlem Sunday night were "not a race riot." There were no clashes between gangs of different races. But every one knows that there would have been no trouble in Harlem if race feeling in that district had not been tense.

The rioters who looted stores and attacked police were a very small minority of Negroes in a large and race-conscious Negro community. Behind that situation were generations of history of which the white man as well as the Negro is a victim.

AUG 3 1943

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said truthfully that there is "a great difference here from the conditions in Detroit." One difference lies in the prompt and more effective action of the Mayor and the police. We do not suppose Mr. White meant to justify, without investigation, every act of every policeman on duty in Harlem. It must be clear, however, that Mayor La Guardia and Police Commissioner Valentine intend to deal with lawbreaking in Harlem as they would with lawbreaking elsewhere, without discrimination except against the lawbreakers themselves.

No friend of the Negro will defend the Harlem rioters. The overwhelming majority of Harlem's law-abiding people, who are as good and useful citizens as can be found anywhere, do not defend them. We do have to ask, as we have to ask in instances of white hoodlumism, what produces such outbreaks. Immediate causes for it can be found in a sense of grievance fanned into flame by sinister agitators, in lies deliberately spread, in an ignorance that might be diminished if white people in this city took a more friendly interest in the welfare of the newer additions to our Negro population. Some of the ultimate causes have been explored again and again. Bad and costly housing, lack of recreational facilities, the failure to give equal economic opportunities—these things corrupt the weak and unstable among the Negro population just as they do among other varieties of population. Hoodlumism is not racial.

AUG 3 1943

To say this is not to say that it doesn't have to be suppressed. It does have to be, and primarily for the safety and welfare of the good people of Harlem itself. When this has been done we should have an inquiry, participated in by the Negroes and white people who for a long time have been working for a better understanding—and so quietly that their names seldom appear in the newspapers. Can the police system in Harlem be improved? Can more Negro policemen be appointed? In deputizing Negroes to patrol the streets yesterday Mayor La Guardia recognized the significance of such appointments. We cannot wipe out race prejudice or race jealousy in a day, among masses of people. But the individual citizen can go far in wiping those emotions out of his own heart. He can recognize that this is everybody's city, not the Negro's, nor anyother. The wise citizen knows this and that if there is discrimination against one race's city. He can learn the lesson any one on account of race or religion, then no one is secure. He can practice the good citizen acts accordingly.

Harlem Riot Probe Asks 10-Point Remedial Plan

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK—A 10-point platform of recommendations to reduce the likelihood of further racial disorders in the Harlem area, was submitted late last week by the Citizens' Committee on Better Race Relations.

The committee, organized through the efforts of A. Philip Randolph, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was formed to investigate the causes behind the August 1 riot, which left in its wake five dead, several hundred injured and estimated property damage of $5,000,000.

The 10-point program recommended by the group follows:

That the Mayor call upon the President to issue a national proclamation abolishing segregation, discrimination and Jim Crowism in the armed forces and in the Government everywhere.

That the President issue an order calling on the Red Cross to discontinue its Jim Crow blood bank forthwith.

That the Mayor appoint two Negroes, one as a member of the Board of Education, the other to serve on the Executive Administration staff of the Board of Education.

Asks City Appointments

That the Mayor appoint a Negro as one of his ranking secretaries.

That the Mayor appoint a Negro Deputy Police Commissioner.

That the Mayor confer with the merchants of Harlem, the Markets department and the Office of Price Administration on correcting the wide differentials existing in quality and quantity of foodstuffs and other commodities sold in Harlem.

That the Mayor appoint a Negro to the Administrative staff of the City War council to coordinate the Civilian Defense activities of the Council in Relation to Negro Participation.

That the Mayor appoint a Commission on Race Relations consisting of representatives of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities, and that this commission be empowered to accept and consider recommendations to better race relations in the city.

That the number of playstreets and playgrounds be increased in Harlem.

That the city acquire buildings in Harlem for indoor musical concerts, skating rinks, dancing and other recreational activities.

A "Social Explosion"

Rather than a "riot," the committee preferred to call the disturbance a "social explosion," brought on by the ever-present problems of isolation, segregation and discrimination to which the Negro in almost every section of the country, is subjected.

"Such a social explosion," the committee pointed out, "is deplorable at a time when the country is in the midst of a war. It is also regrettable that America should permit such social conditions as would make an explosion of this type possible."

In further support of this theory, the committee declared, in part:

Government Blamed

"In the distressed imaginations of Negroes who know the humiliation of second-class citizenship, all of the inequalities imposed by the Federal Government in the armed services, in political, civil and social life, burst forth with what was not just hooliganism or vandalism, but a violent and surging protest—actually a sort of revolution of the common man."

Aside from Randolph, the committee was composed of: Mrs. Anna Arnold Hedgman, Shelton Hale Bishop, Mable K. Staupers, Aldrich Turner, Helen Daughty, Dolly Lowther, Noah C. A. Walters, Mrs. Helen Curtis, Wilfred Kerr, Hexton Hardin, E. Pauline Myers, Julius C. Thomas, Frank Crosswaith, Eloise Bishop Teacher, Charles C. Berkley, Edith Ransom, C. B. Powell, B. F. McLauren, George E. Haynes, Vivian C. Mason and Dr. Laurence M. Ervin.

HARLEM RIOT; THE OTHER SIDE

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

By DLLORES CALVIN

NEW YORK (C)—False rumors have always been known to develop nto the biggest, most distorted tales imaginable. History repeated itself, as in 1935, when a rumor started a riot, and in 1943, it was done again.

It's quite unfortunate that the explanations of the two principal men [illegible] caused the Harlem riot, don't agree. One is the word of the white policeman, Patrolman James Collins, and the other, the story of the colored soldier, Pvt. Robert Bandy, M.P.

It's the cop who says that he was doing his duty arresting a disorderly colored woman when this soldier interfered to take he side. He hit him pretty hard with his nightstick and Collins, in defense, fired the shot which caused the "good people of Harlem" to abandon their good name.

On the other hand, Pvt. Bandy's spokesman, Assistant District Attorney Francis E. Rivers, claims that the real story never got through. According to him, Bandy was in the lobby of the Braddock che[illegible] out with his mother and [illegible]friend, Doris Jackson, who is unmentioned in all reports. Two women and three men were requsting a refund and received all but one dollar for which they were told they had to wait until the elevator operator came down. One of the women, Margie Polite, became disorderly and the cop was called. He pushed her. Bandy remarked "You would not do that to one of your group." The fight started between the two. There was the nightstick blow and the shot. Then the rumors spread that a white cop had killed a colored soldier.

It took years to build Harlem, one night to tear it down.

Our Mayor tells us that hoodlums and criminals reigned through the city, tearing up Harlem, looting all private property [illegible] damaging some establishments almost beyond repair. But the riot was the explosion of a terse feeling against racial discrimination in every sort of way in New York.

For years, colored business has been banned from the main street of the colored section, 125th. For years, the white and Jewish store owners banded together in the 125th Street Merchants Association and Uptown Chamber of Commerce for the role purpose of killing all ideas of colored businesses with shop windows in the shopping district. There was a time when even colored were refused the second floors for offices. It is indeed a pitiful shame that Harlem, in a northern city like New York and in these modern times is so backward on the subject of colored merchants.

SIX ARE KILLED, 543 ARE HURT IN HARLEM RIOTING

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Mayor Declares Order Restored, But Guard Being Maintained

NEW YORK, Aug. 2—(AP)—Six Negroes were killed, 543 persons injured, including 4 policemen, and more than 500 arrested in 16 hours of rioting in Harlem Monday. Wild smashing of shop windows and looting of stores owned by both Negroes and whites marked the disorders.

A 10:30 p.m. curfew was clamped down on the area, and the wartime dimout lifted in the nation's largest Negro neighborhood. Six thousand policemen continued to patrol streets and subway stations. Liquor stores were closed and motor traffic in Harlem virtually was at a standstill.

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia expressed a belief that "all's quiet now."

The mayor was joined by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and a member of the City Council, in asserting that the outbreak was "not a race riot."

Hoodlums Are Blamed

Said Mr. Powell:

"It is a blind, smouldering and unorganized resentment against Jim Crow treatment of Negro men in the armed forces and the usual high rents and cost of living forced upon Negroes in Harlem."

"There was no conflict between groups of our citizens," said the mayor. "What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people. Shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem district. I saw the recklessness of this mob in action. Strange to say, there was no concerted action. Groups of hoodlums acted on their own initiative."

Those killed in the disorders were listed as Vincent Randolph, 35, and Stanley Stokes, 20, both of Savannah, Ga.; Frank Stoner, 40, address not given; Michael Young, 43, of New York; Neil Lucas, no age or address given, and an unidentified man.

The disorders began at 7:30 p.m. Sunday when a policeman shot a Negro soldier who tried to interfere with the arrest of a Negro woman in a hotel lobby. The last outbreak was reported at 11:30 a.m. Monday when 20 policemen rescued a fellow officer and five prisoners from a pawn shop where a crowd of 700 Negroes threatened the officer with harm and threw rocks into the shop.

The prisoners, arrested on charges of stealing articles from the shop, harangued the crowd to "go home and get your guns and get us out of here."

Windows Smashed

Shop windows were broken in many sections of Harlem, and on the south side of 116th Street at least half the stores had smashed panes. Many stores were looted almost completely.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said that 44 policemen were injured in the disorders, and that 99 per cent of the others were Negroes. Hospitals treated 157 Harlem residents.

Because many food stores were closed and milk was scarce in Harlem, Mayor LaGuardia ordered two truck loads of milk sent there, with instructions that "if you can't get it into the stores, sell it to the people in the streets."

A battalion of the New York militia arrived late Monday morning, headed by Brig. Gen. John J. Mangan, who said he was "just looking around." City officials later announced that a committee of 1,500 persons, most of them Negroes, would help patrol Harlem streets Monday night. Each man would be equipped with a night stick, officials said.

Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, surveyed the scene with his staff, and said, "This is strictly a civilian job." He said he would not declare the area "out of bounds" for soldiers.

Chief Magistrate Thomas H. Curran said special sessions of court would be held for the persons arrested, most of them Negroes. Charges against them ranged from disorderly conduct to homicide.

Statements Issued

Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio issued a statement expressing bewilderment at the disorders. He said as far back as he could remember Harlem lived in peace and harmony, but—

"Now, of late, on the slightest provocation, large numbers are moved to disorder, as if giving expression to some pent-up feeling. Insidious propaganda is misleading would-be peaceful people."

After investigating the situation, White, secretary of the NAACP, said the disturbances resulted from "the false rumor that a policeman had killed a Negro soldier in the presence of his mother."

White said the rumor "spreadtion," his secretary said, but he like wildfire," and that "after the

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, visiting the city, was "watching the situation on a inspection of the area.

Collins said the soldier beat him over the head with the stick and in self-defense he shot the soldier with his service revolver. The soldier was taken to a hospital where his condition was pronounced good.

Chairman John F. O'Connell of Liquor Authority announced the board had forbidden sale of all liquor, wine or beer in such occasions."

Harlem until further notice.

Bandy, 26, was identified by police as Pvt. Robert Shortly afterward a general outbreak began in the Col- Patrolman James he was arresting a Negro on a disorderly conduct Blocks of stores had their windows smashed in. Five thousand patrolmen and a thou- grabbed by the

sand detectives were rushed to the area. Milk bottles and other missiles rained down from upper floors of tenement houses.

Mayor LaGuardia, one of the first city officials to reach the scene, stood on the steps of a Harlem police station and pleaded for order. The crowd booed him.

News The Harlem Rioting

Five Negroes are dead, 543 persons injured, 500 under arrest and $5,000,000 damage to property has been done in Harlem, New York City's Negro section, as the result of an outbreak of rioting which started there Sunday night and continued through Monday morning.

As so often happens in such cases, the initial cause of these disturbances was comparatively minor. A white policeman shot and wounded a Negro soldier he said had attempted to interfere with the arrest of a Negro woman. Then, according to Associated Press stories, a crowd followed the injured soldier to a hospital, "somebody threw a bottle," and the disorder spread.

Note that "somebody threw a bottle." That one gesture was apparently all that was needed to set off the spark and ignite the smouldering flames which must have been present to have caused such an outburst. And what caused this flame? The Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of a Negro Baptist church in Harlem, described it as a "blind, smouldering and unorganized resentment against Jim Crow treatment of Negro men in the armed forces and the usual high rents and cost of living forced upon Negroes in Harlem."

There are, of course, other viewpoints. But the fact that outbursts can and do occur seems conclusive proof that there is a decided feeling of unrest and resentment in various parts of this country today. Whatever the extent to which this feeling is justified, its existence must be recognized and steps taken to meet it. Light on the present situation is thrown by a statement from Thomas A. Aurelio, a New York magistrate, who said as far back as he could remember Harlem lived in peace and harmony, but now, of late, "on the slightest provocation, large numbers are moved to disorder, as if giving expression to some pent-up feeling." He added that it seemed to him "some insidious propaganda is misleading an otherwise peaceful people."

It should be remembered that the conditions prevailing in Harlem are by no means confined to that section. Wherever a group of people feel that they are not being offered the opportunities they should have; wherever there are wrongs, either real or imagined, which are allowed to simmer in the minds of people, there you they sooner or later find violence. And the longer the wait the less it takes to provoke the outburst.

So we should all bear this in mind and govern ourselves accordingly, especially in our contacts with others, exercising discipline at all times and treating our fellow man with the courtesy and consideration we expect from him—and usually get, if we set the example.

Let's Get Started

New York, N. Y. PM

In PM's outstanding picture coverage yesterday of the Harlem disorders, I liked best the picture of the Negro giving a white man a light from his cigar. Here is preserved for immortality—relative immortality, anyway—a spot of sanity and reasonableness in a night of turmoil. There were an overwhelming number of similar spots that went unrecorded. No photographers went around taking pictures of Negro families peacefully sleeping through the night, not only in Harlem but in Negro sections of Brooklyn, Queens and The Bronx. No photographer took pictures of three or four million white New Yorkers who live within a half-hour's ride of Harlem and who stayed home, or went to the movies, minding their own business. No photographers recorded activities in the war plants that were open Sunday night in which white men and Negroes continued to work side by side, undisturbed by rumor or passion or prejudice.

No Call to Gloat

I respectfully call the attention of Southern reactionaries, who must today be gloating over damnyankee discomfiture, to these untaken pictures. And perhaps it is as well to remind them that, among the pictures that were taken, none showed Negroes mobbing white civilians, and none showed white civilians mobbing Negroes. The fact bears repeating that no such incidents took place. In the short view, as well as the long, Southern reaction has no more reason to gloat over what has happened here than we ourselves.

On the basis of these facts, we are entitled to infer that in Harlem, and among the population of the city as a whole, there exists enough restraint, understanding and good will for popular support of a constructive program. The immediate problem is one of getting civic leaders to draw up such a program, and it is for this purpose that PM is advocating the creation of a permanent interracial committee.

Committee Composition

As we see it, such a committee should be:

¶ Small enough to reach conclusions with reasonable speed and without unreasonable debate (perhaps seven to nine members would be sufficient).

¶ Independent, individually and as a group, of any connection with the City administration. We don't want members who may, by choice or compulsion, try to turn the committee floor into a platform for whitewashing anything or anyone.

¶ Authorized to report, not directly to the City administration, Mayor La Guardia or another office holder, but directly to the people of the City through the press and radio. We would rather have some practical program, however imperfect, out in the open for discussion than a Utopia in a pigeon hole; and, if the committee criticizes some City department, we want to make sure that its criticism gets a hearing, and not a private burial.

Need Specialists

Obviously, the men serving the committee must have brains as well as prestige. We think it ought to include at least one representative each from the CIO and AFL. It ought to include a physician and a professional social welfare worker accustomed to thinking of general problems in concrete terms. We think it ought to include a progressive businessman who can explain, in bookkeeping language, to employers and landlords the non-profitable aspects of discrimination in employment and of exploitation as a trade policy.

We thing this nucleus of specialists, more or less, ought to be rounded out with three or four outstanding citizens, who may or may not be already identified with any cause or with any organization. And, of course, we think that as a group, membership should be divided evenly among Negroes and whites.

Can Lessen Friction

Such a group can't be expected to settle the race problem. No local attack is going to fell that monster, which feeds in an economic pasturage not only national, but international in scope. But it can be expected to lessen or remove immediate causes of friction by considering the problems of housing, recreation, education, general welfare, rents and prices in Harlem.

And while we ask our local committee—when we get it—to work in these fields, is it too much to ask the War Dept. to give it a helping hand on a national scale? I can think of no simple act with such a vast potential for good as the establishment of a mixed fighting unit in the Army, a unit composed of volunteers anxious to show that they are 100 per cent anti-fascist—against the enemy without and the enemy within.

—VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN

IN GOOD FAITH

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

RACE RIOTS

From: Rev. William C. Kernan, Director of Christian Institute for American Democracy
415 Lexington Ave., New York City

When the same kind of racial disturbances, following much the same pattern, occur within a few days of each other in such widely separated places as Mobile, Newark, Los Angeles, Beaumont, and Detroit there is evidence to show that an evil wind is blowing in this country.

The Detroit tragedy alone was the worst thing of its kind in the United States since the East St. Louis riot in 1917 when 33 persons were killed and nearly 300 injured. There is a difference, however, between the East St. Louis affair and what is happening now. For, in 1917 there was no conscious, determined, and world-wide movement based upon racial antagonism. That is not so today. The Nazis have built a powerful state on the theory of racial supremacy. They have organized racial antagonisms which hitherto had rested only upon the sporadic and unorganized racial feelings of men in various parts of the world. They have flooded all lands with their racial propaganda and made consistent efforts to create the kind of race consciousness elsewhere that they succeeded in creating in Germany. We have felt the effects of this propaganda in America. The wave of recent riots is an evidence of it and so is the undercurrent of racial and religious tension that everyone must be aware of who has eyes to see and ears to hear.

Whether or not worse things are in the offing depends upon what believers in Christianity and democracy do from now on. If we remain silent and inactive before this most serious of all dangers to our religion and our form of government, we will have to do it vigorously and the Gettysburg Address say may expect the racists to carry the with great faith. They will have to America is—and then set to work day. If they do, no minority will be summon America to use its tremen-in the effort to make American prac-safe, no minister of religion will pro-dous energy to build a mighty and tice on every front, conform to test except at his very great peril, unified nation, rather than to dissi-American ideal. and democracy will die. The prob-pate its strength in divisive racial lem before us calls for strong men hatred and rioting. They will have who are ready to be practical enough to stand up and boldly announce that to apply Christian and democratic they believe in what the Declaration principles to the racial problems of Independence, the Constitution this country—and to do it now. They

Local Items

PM
New York, N. Y.

Heard from Harlem people —in a courthouse

AUG 15 1943

WE WENT TO FELONY COURT at 100 Center St., near City Hall, last Thursday where 40 of those arrested in the Harlem riots were being arraigned. The courtroom was jam-packed with relatives of those arrested—dressed up and looking deadly serious.

We listened to their whispered conversations and talked with many during court recesses.

"I don't know what got into everybody," a smartly dressed young Negro woman said to me. "My brother has never done anything like this before, but he must have been doing something or he wouldn't be here now. We all feel terrible. People just wait to say bad things about Harlem. Now we've given them something to talk about."

"Everybody mad," her neighbor remarked. "Wimins mad at they husbands, an' mothers mad at they children. Neighbors mad an' friends mad because they bring trouble down on us. They only hurt theyselfs. Now we cain't git laundry or groceries. The stores is all broke up. An' people lost they belongings. My husban' got nine suits. We was robbed once, so he put his suits in de pawn shop where they safe. Pawn shop broke in an' his suits is gone."

"My sister comin' fo' a visit from Geo'gia," another woman remarked. "Be a long time before people comin' to Harlem kin see what it really look like. They sho' made a mess."

"I took a day off to come here," said another. "My husband left for work early Monday morning like he always does but he didn't come home. Next day I git a letter to come bail him out. Said he was walkin' along an' couldn't help stoppin' when he saw Harlem all tore up. Pretty soon he saw some clothes layin' on the sidewalk, all stomped up and dirty.

"Wouldn't you pick them up if you saw them layin' there? Plenty people was grabbing Sunday night and Monday that didn' mean to steal.

"My sister's two children was arrested, too. Ran an' took things from the stores an' sidewalks when they saw everybody doing it. Like when a push-wagon gets upset. All the kids run to grab some fruit. Could happen any place—not just to colored folks."

A white-headed old woman who had been standing beside us in the corridor, spoke up.

"Children don' listen to they mamas," she said, shaking her head. "I waked up in the night. Was scared. Heard my youngest racin' aroun' in de dark, tryin' to put his clothes on an' not wake me.

"'What you doin', son?' I asked him.

"'Goin' down an' see what that commotion's about.'

"I turned on de light and said, 'Don you go down there an' leave me here alone. That commotion don' mean nothin' but trouble. You stay here.

"'I got to go, mama,' he tol' me.

"I said he couldn' go. I was scared, an' when he open his mouth to me again I laid my hand on it hard. He mad then. Grabbed up his britches an went tearin' down de stairs. I went in de street lookin' for him. Walkin' down de street put me in mind of trouble in New Orleans when we used to have de Mardi Gras. Grown mens an' wimins actin' wild, an' little kids with they behinds stickin' out of they briches puttin' ever-thing they could find on they backs—long tail coats, ladies' kimonos, silk hats an' flowers. They was laughin' an' struttin' down de avenue like Carnival time.

"Didn' find my boy. This mornin' my neighbor-woman come told me my boy phoned for me to come go his bail. My oldest boy's in de army, an' I'm a widow-woman. Now where I'm goin' to git money to do that?"

National Problem

The shocking outbreak in Harlem is merely a local manifestation of a problem national in scope. It was unlike the explosions in other cities, only to the extent that it was a clash between lawless Negroes and the police. But the looting which took place in New York was a repetition of the looting which marked the Detroit riot. And with respect to the background of violence, Harlem and Los Angeles and Beaumont are alike. The war has set everyone's teeth on edge. It encourages violence. The Negro is a special victim of such a condition. Harlem has for many years been a danger spot. Since the last war, it has become a swollen center of Negro life. Great numbers of Negroes have been drawn to it from the South. In this congested environment, Negroes have suffered from wretched housing and from economic disadvantage. In such a setting, a criminal element has been so active and juvenile delinquency so pronounced as to give Harlem a special place in police records. Who that has been reading New York newspapers can fail to see in what took place Sunday night anything but a logical climax to what had gone on before.

But to say that is not to permit the rest of the country to be holier-than-thou. For wherever a depressed group is living in such an atmosphere you have the makings of such an eruption. Wherever a community fails to take cognizance of such a possibility and also fails to prepare against it, an explosion is a logical consequence, however remote actually. Detroit and New York feel disgraced, but their real shame is that, in spite of what they had reason to fear, they did so little to make it unlikely. And what is true of these communities is equally true of others which have not met the same threat constructively, creatively.

What is needed for that purpose is, first of all, the right spirit on the part of the individual citizen. If in one's daily, hourly thinking, one seeks to be free of prejudice, on the one hand, and of resentment, on the other—if mercy and righteousness, decency and fair play, are the prevailing attitude of men and women in their homes and at their work—the public attitude takes on the same quality, the moral resources of the community serve as a social deterrent when the great test comes.

With this as a foundation, other positive preventives are in order. Shall we be content with letting things slide or shall we face up sensibly to the demands of the situation? In Birmingham, for example, we competed for years with Memphis for the distinction of being the murder capital of the country. We salved our conscience by pointing out that these homicides were overwhelmingly of and among Negroes. And we did little to improve that situation. Is that the right course to take, or should every power at our command have been thrown into a systematic campaign to reduce killings among Negroes?

AUG 4 1943

The outburst in Harlem is a warning to the nation. Hoodlums and thieves seized the opportunity to rob and plunder. But that there should have been enough of them to do such damage is in itself an indictment of a great city like New York. In Detroit, also, little attention was paid to forerunners of the storm. It behooves communities with any share of light and leading to survey their own conditions and then to make paramount the task of eliminating sources of friction and misunderstanding within themselves. We invite trouble by refusing to see it until it is full upon us. The path of wisdom is to remove the causes of trouble before they become an immediate threat.

Trouble in Harlem

In the forty-five blocks north of New York's Central Park, and from the irregular line of the East and Harlem Rivers to Amsterdam Avenue, live approximately 300,000 of New York City's 460,000 Negroes. The section has for years been noted for its overcrowding, its high incidence of disease. Its rate of crime, contrary to general belief, is not out of line with similarly crowded districts. In wartime it has felt the strain of many tensions. Numerous charges have been made that rents, services and goods cost more in Harlem than in comparable metropolitan areas. Racial prejudice has kept down the number of workers in war jobs. Harlem soldiers have returned from the South with stories of discrimination like nothing New York has ever shown them. All this has created an atmosphere not so much of high tension as of underlying restlessness and discontent.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Night of Rioting

Into such an unstable atmosphere a spark was dropped last Sunday night. In an altercation in a Harlem hotel lobby a Negro soldier was shot and slightly wounded by a white policeman. The word that flashed through Harlem was that the soldier had been shot for no reason at all. The crowds that are a fixture of the district on a hot summer night gathered in angry groups. The crash of a brick through a plate glass window set off a night of wild, aimless rioting and pillage. Block after block of storefronts were smashed in. Looting began. Fights broke out. Police reserves and M.P.'s were rushed to the scene, and by dawn Harlem could count the cost of the worst riot in its history: five dead, more than 500 wounded or injured, another 500 arrested, damage estimated at more than $4,000,000.

The trouble subsided as quickly as it flared up. Mayor La Guardia made frequent visits to the scene, took to the radio repeatedly, as did Negro leaders, to explain the situation and plead against violence. Liquor stores were closed, a curfew imposed and emergency traffic halted. Volunteer city patrol and auxiliary workers of both

AUG 5 1943

AUG 8 1943



Alabama

Pegler

Post

LaGuardia's Policy Is Blamed For Riots In Harlem

Birmingham, Ala.

By Westbrook Pegler

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—There is a disposition to give Mayor LaGuardia much more credit than he deserves for the handling of the riots in Harlem. The criminal element in Harlem has been allowed from the New York policemen who faced the mobs and won the victory with a minimum of bloodshed and damage just that proportion of the credit which is due them.

A correct proportion would be about .01 per cent for the mayor and 99.09 per cent for the cops, who are the best in the United States and probably the best in the world, their virtues and the problems considered.

In the first place, one reason why the looters and bad men and women could get out of hand was that the authority of the police has been undermined systematically in Harlem during LaGuardia's time in office. If the bad actors among the population

of that colored neighborhood had been held to the same standard of conduct and law observance that is required of colored and white citizens alike in other sections of the city, rioters would have been no more likely to break loose there than in, say, Mulberry Bend or Murray Hill.

The decent Negro citizens know that the name of Harlem has attracted there an element of bums and thieves who were no good in their own home towns. It was no compliment to the decent element when LaGuardia put handcuffs on the policemen to hamper them in dealing with offenders.

* * *

Cops Prove Case

A couple of years ago, I made the mistake of criticizing a large number of time-expired New York policemen, many of them relatively young, who, having served their 20 years were putting in for retirement on pension.

To my regret, I went so far as to suggest that their retirement then was comparable to desertion in the face of an emergency presented by a foreign enemy, without first consulting a few harness cops to get their side. I got it, however, in a large batch of letters from policemen. They complained bitterly of humiliations put upon them by LaGuardia and in the discredit of their authority in Harlem and in troubles with union pickets. If they stayed on, they had to risk departmental charges and dismissal, with consequent loss of all their earned pension rights.

Their version of conditions in Harlem later was confirmed by two able men then on the district attorney's staff, who also said the Communists of LaGuardia's left wing in Harlem, where Congressman Vito Marcantonio is a power and the mayor's political protege, enjoyed special privileges.

* * *

Mayor's Own Fault

Having helped stack the crates and barrels by his anti-cop policy, the mayor was aghast when the pile was touched off by a fracas between a policeman and two Negroes whose little mishap should have been a routine entry. But it was the cops, operating under reduced prestige, who had to do the dangerous work.

LaGuardia was technically correct in saying that this was no race riot. Nevertheless, in the imagination of the rioters, it was just that, and certain elements of the Negro press cannot escape responsibility.

Even Mrs. Roosevelt has mildly deplored their editorial policy, which, frankly, is one of race hatred and incitation and of ennoblement of every Negro in any jam with the law, even though the subject be known to his Negro neighbors as a worthless bad-

AUG 5 1943

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
August 9, 1943

Fingerprints Tell Story

Everything from "Jimcrowism"—whatever that is—to activities of "Ku Klux Klan agents" and an "influx of Southern white crackers" are being used by negro pressure groups and others as excuses for the recent negro riots in Harlem, where negroes worked one another over and where Mayor LaGuardia says there were no race problems involved.

The damage done in Harlem totaled well more than $6,000,000 and more than 1000 stores were looted.

The City of New York is making an investigation into the Ku Klux rumors, but more than rumors we do not believe they will be proved. For the facts of the riot we rather think New York had better look to the records of its own fine police department, which did a magnificent job in bringing the hoodlumism to an end.

It is the job of a police department to ascertain facts and the New York department is currently looking some Harlem facts in the face.

The rioting led to the arrest of 504 negroes. Of that number 350 were fingerprinted. A check of the identification files of the police department revealed that of the 350, there were criminal records in the cases of 120, or slightly more than 45 per cent of the total.

Two of the negroes killed had criminal records. One had been arrested 18 times and convicted 11 times. Another, shot to death by a policeman while looting a store, was out on bail at the time on a felonious assault charge.

The bleeding hearts, do-gooders, and negro exploiters of their own race will beat the drums mightily about "oppression," "Southern influence," and what have you, but you can bet your life they'll soft-pedal the New York police record, although it provides the clearest, most tangible clue of all as to what happened in Harlem.

When incidents of this sort occur there is always a great hue and cry over alleged "foreign influences" and agitation, but when all the rumor and propaganda is sifted and facts are disclosed it is generally revealed that genuinely criminal elements have been chiefly responsible for what has happened.

Agitators will lie to suit their own selfish purposes. Fingerprints never lie and those pertaining to the Harlem riot tell a great big mouthful.

AUG 6 1943

Harlem: Post-Mortem

Washington, D. C. Post

Elsewhere on this page today we publish a letter by a distinguished Negro leader which puts a new and interesting light on the recent disturbances in the Harlem district of New York. Mayor LaGuardia was, of course, correct in saying that it was not a race riot, since the only white persons involved were the police. Now one begins to wonder whether the mayor and the newspapers were right in describing it as a riot at all. What seems to have occurred was a complete breakdown of all law and order followed by an outrageous carnival of looting. Certainly, it takes something of a *tour de force* of reasoning to translate such an episode into a subtle protest against social injustices. As a matter of fact, we suspect that events will show that those who participated in the looting have done serious injury to efforts to improve the Negro's social condition and to remove the various economic discriminations against him. If the alternative to discrimination is to be downright anarchy, most persons, including, we believe, the great majority of law-abiding Negroes, will prefer the discrimination.

AUG 6 1943

In the circumstances the forbearance shown by the police was truly amazing. Evidently they were under orders to handle the looters with kid gloves. Mr. Pickens himself testifies to at least one instance in which the police apparently did not even interfere with the flagrant sacking of a shop. That was certainly putting the reverse accent on discrimination. It was, moreover, extremely unfair to the police, who, since they are expected to risk their lives to preserve order, can certainly be said to have an equity in the matter. Mr. Pickens has put his finger directly on the point when he says that mob action by Negroes has no more justification than mob action by whites.

In other words, the whole problem of relationship between the races in this country is hopeless of solution unless it can be assumed that Negroes are as much morally responsible as the rest of us. There is still a very large section of white American opinion which insists that Negroes as a group are incapable of such responsibility, and we are afraid the Harlem rioters have given a great deal of ammunition into the hands of those who share this opinion. This is a thought which we commend to the more vociferous Negro leaders, and especially to the editors of the somewhat incendiary Negro press, who by sometimes seeking to distort the arrest and punishment of Negro lawbreakers as examples of race persecutions, are really compromising the right of the Negro to be judged, like the rest of us, as an individual citizen.

AUG 8 1943

WHY HOODLUMS?

Defender —Chicago, Ill.—

Are Negro newspapers and leaders bending over backwards in their current "good conduct" campaign?

Given new impetus by Harlem's night of rioting last month, the offensive against so-called hoodlumism seems to be plunging headlong into dangerous ground of late. There is much talk of stringent measures to curb unbridled elements among the Negro population—to crack down on zoot suiters, to seal the lips of loud and obscene pool room hangouts, to clap into jail the wild, immoral women who walk the streets.

This open discussion of repressive measures against uncouth and unkempt Negroes who give entire colored communities a bad name is found particularly among the better-class, better-paid and better-groomed elements who sometimes sound like the vigilantes of Western days in their anxiety to restore law and order. Harlem's outbreak gave these men—college presidents and insurance men professionals and business bosses—an arsenal of new ammunition.

Most colored newspapers, almost without exception, also shouted from the housetops about "hoodlums in Harlem."

SEP 4 1943

The Defender, for one, refused and still refuses to join in this hue and cry which would brand the leading Negro community in the nation with the "hoodlum" tag. One week after Harlem we wrote that the shout against hoodlumism "answers nothing, explains nothing." The ensuing weeks have showed that we are in the minority among Negro newspapers on this issue. The "hoodlum" talk is still being bandied about and only last week a leading Southern newspaper lauded the Negro press for recognizing that Negro hoodlums were behind the riots, adding that the South knew how to handle these unbridled Negroes.

What are the indisputable facts? Unquestionably, there is need, yes, great need, for an all-out drive for better Negro conduct. But to blame bad Negro behavior for any race riot is sorry logic of the cart-before-the-horse variety.

People are not born with bad manners. Hoodlumism is no more a trait of Negroes, than of whites. Margaret Marshall of The Nation put the idea in a nutshell when she wrote recently: "Hoodlumism is an old story in any ghetto."

SEP 4 1943

In the Harlem riots, we have the picture of thousands of Bigger Thomases running berserk instead of the one so aptly described in Richard Wright's Native Son.

Can we expect good conduct from any man, no matter what his color, when he feels he is society's outcast, when he is forced to live in primitive slum ghettos, when he must do the filthiest, most degraded work to earn a living, when he can never feel sure about his tomorrow? No man can help being an escapist in these conditions. The result is seen in the resentful, angry, frustrated "hoodlum," as some call him. Whiskey, zoot suits, numbers rackets, prostitution, free and loose living are inevitable.

What can we as Negroes do to combat this wild behavior? Yes, let us have our good conduct campaigns through the Urban League and other intelligent organizations. But never for a moment let us fall into the trap of forgetting the Negro refugee status in his native ghetto, the kitchenette, the TB rate, that result in that the root of the evil lies not in the individual, but in our society—in theradation and frustration hoodlumism.

Our battle is not against the results, the "no colored need apply" signs.

As long as white America insists on but the cause—not against the Bigger segregation and jim crow which give Thomases, but the Bilbos and Rankins.

Why Harlem Rioted

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
AUG 14 1943

New Yorkers Resent National Humiliation of Colored Soldiers; No Anti-Semitism or Hatred of White People.

AUG 14 1943

By EDWARD S. LEWIS

NEW YORK — On the spot impressions of the Harlem riot:

It is important to emphasize that this riot was set off by the shooting of a colored soldier by a white policeman.

The immediate problem is not housing, not recreation, not jobs but bad treatment of colored soldiers by civilians and government officials especially in the South. This explosion re-emphasizes the importance of the sustained campaign of the AFRO against discrimination in the armed forces.

There was no evidence of friction between white and colored persons. In fact, in some instances white and colored persons were looting and filching together. There were no evidences of organized anti-Semitism apparent, and Jewish merchants were quite philosophical about the whole situation. Blumstein, owner of the largest department store, said to me that, "I think we should sign a peace pledge after this."

While tramping around the streets I did not find racial antagonism, but there was definite hostility expressed against white policemen. This emphasizes the importance of our drive to get more colored police. We secured 150 volunteers and the plan to conduct police training courses.

The extraordinary response which these men gave to an emergency call which the Urban League sent out on Monday was something to should about. Most of them came right off their jobs and signed up, received a policemen's billet, arm band, and were immediately sent out in company with white policemen. In one particular case the man came into the station breathless and said that he had come from Camp Upton, 80 miles away, in order to act as emergency policeman. He was supposed to report at 7 o'clock and made the trip two hours later. He apologized for being late.

The extraordinary courage of these men going out to face the angry crowds unarmed in the company of white policemen is one of the brighter sides of this picture which I want to remember.

Leaders Called In

Another angle was that of the Mayor, police commissioner and government officials calling into the picture every colored leader which they could get their hands on for help and counsel. The lesson which needs to be editorialized is that colored leaders, when given the opportunity, can deliver the goods. Without this co-operation I am convinced that the blood would certainly have flowed in Harlem's congested streets.

There has been some reports that children and young people were largely responsible for looting and brick-throwing. A more accurate statement would be that men, women and children participated in this outburst, and I do not think we are in position to place it on any one group.

No Subversive Influences

There was absolutely no evidence of subversive influences, Japanese, C.P. or otherwise. These colored folk simply blew the lid off because they were sick and tired of the reports about the treatment of men in the armed services.

I think that one of the most important things that can be done would be to get a two-way public relations program on the part of the colored and white press.

Incidentally, AFRO's Reporter Johnson was on the job and in on every play. I saw him very much at work at the 28th Precinct which was headquarters for the mayor, police commissioner and all top officers of the city government.

AUG 14 1943

THE HARLEM OUTBREAK WAS NOT A RACE riot: at no time was there fighting between Negro and white groups as there was in Los Angeles and Detroit. On that point there has been almost universal agreement among Negroes and whites. But to dismiss the affair as merely an example of hooliganism and vandalism is to dodge the issue completely. There is no question that rioters, hoodlums though they may have been, were protesting in their own way against the many discriminations which Negroes suffer, even in New York. The war has awakened a new sense of racial consciousness among Negroes all over the country, but in no place has it struck so deeply as in Harlem. The men who have been drafted from Harlem have been particularly outraged by the segregation and discrimination practiced in the army, navy, and their protests have fanned the already existing fires of discontent caused by job discrimination, bad housing, high rents, high prices, insufficient recreational and educational opportunities, and occasional police brutality. Under Mayor LaGuardia's personal supervision the police handled the outbreak with considerable effectiveness. But the long-range task of giving Harlem a fair share in the employment, education, health, and recreation facilities of the nation has not been met by city, state, or federal government. Until this is done, there will be constant danger of a repetition of last week's tragedy.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

Elmer Carter Hits Harlem Outbreaks

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

By ELMER A. CARTER

There is no justification for the mob—whether it be a black one or a white mob. And the mob spirit which expressed itself in the widespread destruction of property in Harlem the other night is a sinister and dangerous thing. A black mob intent on the destruction of property and life, whether it be the property and lives of white men or black men, is as reprehensible as a white mob and should be dealt with in the same way.

The outbreaks in Harlem on Sunday night have done the decent Negro citizens of the City of New York and of the nation irreparable harm by the creation of an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion on the part of those who only have feelings of good will toward the Negro.

Irresponsible People

A few irresponsible and misguided individuals have been able in a single night to destroy the constructive work which law-abiding Negro citizens have attempted throughout the past ten years to carry on and the fact that these young mobsters and rioters singled out the business enterprises operated by white men for destruction and looting should give no satisfaction or comfort to the colored citizens of this city. They are a disgrace to their race, a disgrace to the city and a disgrace and a shame to the nation of which they are citizens. There can be no excuse for them and they should be dealt with not by half-hearted measures such as has been reported were taken by the police during the disturbances, but by swift, stern and relentless enforcement of the law.

Good Folk, Off Base

The probabilities are that thousands of decent citizens were in the crowds which moved up and down the streets of Harlem. This is regrettable for the place of every intelligent, law-abiding citizen in a community in the event of riots is at home. The curiosity which prompted hundreds of people to join the crowd served to conceal the offenders and enabled them to pursue their course of law-breaking and banditry under the protection and sanction of the crowd.

What Is The Result?

What is the result of this destruction of property in Harlem? It means that it makes infinitely more difficult for colored people to live in decent neighborhoods and to secure improvements in Harlem. No man or no group of men is willing to invest money in properties which are exposed to the hazards of mob violence. It means that insurance will either be denied business enterprise in Harlem, whether it is black or white, or else the cost will be increased to a prohibitive rate. It furnishes the enemies of the Negro with powerful arguments for segregation and discrimination on the basis of race. It embarrasses the Negro who seeks employment and shackles those who are fighting to break down discrimination in employment.

Appeals to the better instincts of the mob have not been proven to be the most effective way of dealing with it. Mobs must be met by force and their ringleaders apprehended and punished. But it is not enough for Harlem to depend wholly on the police department to quell the unruly and vicious elements in its midst. The decent citizens of Harlem, the merchants, the professional men, the teachers and the clergymen must resolve to make Harlem not only safe for the Negro but safe for any citizen in the City of New York.

Hope for Harlem

There can be no question now of the pressure of economic destitution as a contributing cause of this latest outbreak. The Negro is at work and any Negro who wants work, is desirous of work, can get work. There is overcrowding, it is true, but that cannot account for and cannot excuse the dominance of disreputable elements in the community life of Harlem. The half-baked, superficial demagoguery to which the Negro has been exposed in the past ten years in Harlem is beginning to bear fruit and those who have sought by cheap emotional appeals to incite the Negro have sowed the wind. But every Negro citizen in the City of New York has now begun to reap the whirlwind.

Army Jim Crow Cited in Harlem Riot Cause

Philadelphia Tribune, Pa.
NEW YORK, N. Y. 1943

The spark which touched off the Harlem riot and looting of August 1, according to Walter White, NAACP secretary, cause the soldier was only the treatment their men have been receiving in the Army, White declared in a letter to Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War. The Negro was one of the principal consequence, Secretary Stimson, in his report, with the background of mistreatment of Negro soldiers in the Army, was a report that a Negro was sufficient to touch off the widespread resentment among Negro soldier had been shot and all classes of Negro citizens to contributing factors to the disorderly destructive rampage which did five million dollars' worth of

damage.

After c[illegible] of mistreatment of colored soldiers, White asked for a conference "to work out an affirmative and uncompromising program of ac[illegible]"

The NAACP suggested to Secretary Stimson, "that any and every criminal act, large or small, against a Negro soldier be acted upon immediately and without compromise."

The second suggestion of the NAACP was that the War Department authorize a mixed division of white and colored troops, saying, "all of the evils to which we have referred grow out of the segregation policy of the United States government."

Police Told Harlem Must Obey Laws

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Strict Enforcement To Have Support Of Mayor, Valentine

Members of the New York City Police Department today have assurances from both Mayor La Guardia and Police Commissioner Valentine that they will have full official support of their law enforcement job in Harlem and that it is their duty to handle any situations arising there in exactly the same way as they would handle them in any other part of the city.

Answering a series of questions by the World-Telegram, the Mayor and Commissioner Valentine denied that at any time had there been issued orders to policemen to "go easy" in handling crime in Harlem, or that they had given cause for the impression to get around among the members of the force that the law was not to be enforced in Harlem as rigidly as in the rest of the city.

Commissioner Valentine said that he had always upheld members of his department in the performance of their duties and would continue to do so.

Following the Aug. 1 outbreak in Harlem where six persons were killed, more than 200, including 40 policemen, were injured, and property damage estimated at $5,000,000, there was general talk among police that the looting could have been curbed more quickly had the police been allowed to handle the situation effectively.

Elsewhere there was criticism of the Mayor not only for alleged coddling of Harlem criminal elements but also because he centered on radio broadcasts through Harlem streets rather than using stern police measures.

Politics Charged.

Also there were intimations that politics played a part in lax law enforcement.

Following the Aug. 1 outbreak some policemen complained privately that they were supposed to wink at some of the things that happen in Harlem. In other parts of the city, they said, they considered it their duty to take energetic action to break up street brawls and suppress rowdyism. But in Harlem, they said, they were expected to shut their eyes to such occurrences, their impression being that the higher city officials were afraid vigorous police action would give rise to the charge of police brutality against Harlem residents.

Those policemen who would talk frankly admitted that influential Harlem political leaders were quick to cry "police brutality" and "Cossacks" and to demand that departmental charges be lodged against police who did their duty in enforcing the law against Harlem Negroes.

Policemen also declared that they could have curbed the looting much more quickly if they had felt they were expected to do a real job of law enforcement. To the suggestion that the outbreak was a job for the army they replied that the police force was sufficient to cope with the violence.

Mayor, Valentine Quizzed.

The questions submitted to the Mayor and Commissioner Valentine, and their answers, follow:

"Police have the feeling that they are not allowed to enforce the law in Harlem?"

Answers—By Mayor La Guardia: "That is not true." By Commissioner Valentine: "Unfounded."

"Have you you ever given police any order to go easy in handling Harlem crime?"

Answers—By Mayor La Guardia: "No." By Commissioner Valentine: "No."

"Have you ever given any order that police could interpret as one to go easy in enforcing the law in Harlem?"

Answers—By Mayor La Guardia: "No." By Commissioner Valentine: "No."

"Have police your full indorsement [illegible] really doing a crime enforcement job in Harlem?"

Answers—By Mayor La Guardia: "Always have had—in Harlem and in every other section of the city." By Commissioner Valentine: "Yes. The same policy, the same rules and regulations are applicable in crime prevention and law enforcement in Harlem as in every other section of the City of New York. I have and always will uphold and sustain members of the police force in the proper performance of their duties."

Harlemites Cheer Cop.

That the peaceful residents of Harlem themselves have no desire that the lawless element there be mollycoddled and treated differently, and that they have no sympathy with the hoodlums who were responsible for last week's outbreak were shown on Thursday when a crowd witnessing the arrest of a man who had hurled a box through the window of a store cheered the policeman who made the arrest.

To those persons who charged that the disorders were partly due to the lack of park and settlement house facilities in Harlem, Park Commissioner Moses replied the other day by pointing out that the section now has 29 playgrounds, compared with six in 1934, and that it had not been discriminated against but treated just as the other parts of the city.

Comments by Harlem citizens in the past week showed that they resented particularly the unofficial status of their section as a district apart from the rest of the city, and that all they asked for was exactly the same police protection and treatment as that accorded other sections.

MARINES RECLAIM RIOTER IN HARLEM

Court Drops Charges Against Negro Service Man Who Will Be Court-Martialed

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

The earnest clemency plea of a marine staff sergeant yesterday in Special Sessions brought about the exoneration of George Lee, 22 years old, a Negro marine, on tentative burglary and grand larceny in the Harlem rioting the night of Aug. 1.

Lee, who gave his address as 51 West 127th Street and faces disciplinary charges in his outfit for being absent from duty without leave and having discarded his uniform in the rioting, was seized by Detective Terence Rogers in the early morning of Aug. [illegible] ing the looting of a grocery store at 387 Lenox Avenue.

Rogers was on the stand yesterday when Staff Sergeant Joseph F. Mullane of the Marines sought and obtained permission to address the court.

"This defendant," he began, "recently was inducted into the Marines, and we'd like to have him back. He is physically perfect for service and a good marine. He was a longshoreman when he [illegible] us. Although he is recorded in our files as being absent without leave, he has not yet been classed a deserter.

Death Penalty a Possibility

"If you place him on trial, convict him and detain him in prison, he automatically will become a deserter. Then, if he is found guilty by the Marine Corps on that charge, he will be liable to be sentenced to be shot by a firing squad, because our country is at war."

There was a conference at the bench of Justices Frederick L. Hackenburg, George B. DeLucca and Alfred J. Hoffman with Assistant District Attorney Livingston Goddard, who suggested the charges be reduced. After this, Presiding Justice Hackenburg asked Sergeant Mullane, "What's going to happen to the defendant if we discharge him?"

"Well," replied Mullane, "he'll be placed on trial merely for being absent without leave, and, if found guilty, is liable to be placed on bread and water for fifteen days and lose a month's pay."

"Whew!" came from Justice Hackenburg. "That's worse than giving him a three-month workhouse term."

There was another conference on the bench, after which Justice Hackenburg announced, "The court has reduced the charges to unlawful entry and petit larceny, but also has dismissed them."

Sgt. Mullane then took Lee, who still was in his civilian's clothing, into custody, heading him for an unannounced Marine barracks.

Committed to Institution

While this was in progress, Margie Polite, 35, one of two women who created the hotel disturbance that led to Robert Dancy, a Negro military policeman, beating a patrolman with the latter's nightstick during a scuffle, was committed indefinitely by Magistrate Bromberger in the Felony Court to a medical institution for treatment. She had been in the Woman's House of Detention in default of $10,000 bail since her first arraignment with Dancy and the latter's mother, Mrs. Floreine Roberts, 35, a registered nurse. Mrs. Roberts is accused of having aided her son in the attack on the policeman, who shot and slightly wounded the M. P.

Magistrate Aurelio [illegible] originally also had fixed her bail at $10,000 but he reduced this to $1,000 on Aug. 4 when he discharged the son and the latter was taken into custody by the Army.

But when Magistrate Bromberger found yesterday that Mrs. Roberts had failed to appear for a hearing, he threatened to forfeit the $1,000 bail. Her lawyer, E. K. Jones Jr. of the Voluntary Defenders of the Legal Aid Society, succeeded in having the bail forfeiture held up until he communicated with Mrs. Roberts at her home in Middletown, Conn. Mr. Jones informed the magistrate later she was certain to appear in court today.

FOUR KILLED IN HARLEM RIOT

Birmingham Post

Negroes Smash Windows, Loot Shops And Defy Effort To Quiet Them

Birmingham, Alabama

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—Thousands of Negroes rioted in the tenement lined streets of West Harlem for hours early today, breaking plate glass windows, looting shops, defying all efforts of police to disperse them.

At 7 a. m. police reports listed four deaths and 195 persons injured. All the dead and approximately 140 of the injured were Negroes. Forty policemen, including two captains, were among the injured and 183 persons had been arrested. Only 20 of the injured required hospitalization.

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia toured the relatively small district where several hundred thousand Negroes are crowded, directing police, making impromptu appeals to sullen, unmoving crowds at street intersections. He made a radio speech, asking the rioters to return to their homes. Trucks equipped with loud speakers manned by Negro civic leaders also were moving through the streets, seeking to disperse the crowds.

Police, Crowds Increase

Hour by hour, more and more police reinforcements arrived from other sections of the city but the crowds seemed to increase in proportion. It was estimated that approximately 100 plate glass windows of stores had been smashed and that some 30 shops had been looted. Bottles and rocks were thrown windows several buses and trolley cars, spraying passengers with fragmented glass.

The rioting started shortly after 9 p. m. in front of a hotel, closed after a police raid and under police guard to prevent deopening. Patrolman James Collins attempted to arrest a drunken woman who insisted upon entering. Private Robert Bandy, 26, Negro, a military policeman, intervened. He wrested Collins' night stick out of his hand and struck him over the head with it. Collins drew his revolver and shot Bandy in the shoulder. The arrival of an ambulance attracted as much attention in the thicklymated populated street as the shot had Within an hour, a crowd jammed the street in front of 1[illegible] bottles and [illegible] shop windows.

1000 Besiege Hospital

More than 1000 Negroes were soon packed in the street in front

entering in the 120's
h and Lenox-avs.
first serious rioting
Harlem which, because
ercrowding and other
is a serious problem
police but to all mu-
rtments, particularly
with social welfare.

shouting
threats and insults. For a short
while the station was barricaded.
The rioting then slowly spread
through an apporixmately 10 square

The Female Influence Is Felt:

National Council of Negro Women Comes to Aid of Pvt. Bandy's Mother

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

By NELL DODSON

A new and entirely unexpected development in the aftermath of the August 1 rioting in Harlem case last Wednesday when the metropolitan chapter of the National Council of Negro Women swung into action, and represented by a woman attorney, secured the release on reduced bail of Mrs. Florine Roberts, mother of Pvt. Robert Bandy, the soldier who was the center of the altercation that set off the riot spark.

Up until Wednesday, the part the soldier's mother played in the affair had been vague, partially because of garbled press reports of the incident which took place in the lobby of the now-closed Hotel Braddock and started the all-night rampage of looting and vandalism which brought $5,000,000 worth of damage to the community.

BAIL EXCESSIVE

The prominent woman's group stepped into the picture after it became known Mrs. Roberts was being held under the excessive $10,000 bail for allegedly "acting in concert" with her son when he interfered with Patrolman James Collins' arrest on a disorderly conduct charge of Margie Polite, 35.

According to Vivian Mason, president of the metropolitan chapter, the National Council decided to take action at a special board meeting on Wednesday. Ruth Whitehead Whaley was secured to represent Mrs. Roberts as legal counsel. A few hours after diminutive, fiery Attorney Whaley took over the case, Mrs. Roberts had been released on $1,000 bail and was ready to go back to her job in Middletown, Conn., where she's been employed for the past two-and-one-half years by a wealthy family.

SOME FACTS COME OUT

I talked to Mrs. Roberts Thursday, just before she returned to Connecticut. She's an attractive, soft-spoken woman who looks younger than her forty years. She must also be efficient and well-liked on her job because her employers, personally concerned over her welfare, sent a representative to New York as soon as they learned of her detention, but he arrived after Mrs. Roberts' release.

In none of the newspaper stories was it made clear how and why Pvt. Bandy and his mother happened to be in the lobby of the hotel at the time of altercation.

Mrs. Roberts, accompanied by two of her son's friends from New Haven, Conn., had come to New York for the weekend to visit Robert who was stationed in Jersey City with the 730 Military Police Battalion. The two girls stayed in lower Harlem with friends. Mrs. Roberts was unable to secure accommodations at the crowded Hotel Theresa, but was referred to the Braddock.

Sunday evening, she and the two girls, accompanied by Robert, were returning to the hotel to pick up her bags prior to returning home to Connecticut, when the trouble started.

There are two widely-contrasting versions of what took place in the lobby. Mrs. Roberts' full story will be told in due time and in the proper place, but the following facts are included:

- Mrs. Roberts states that at no time did her son strike Officer Collins;
- that in spite of the fact she is supposed to have assaulted Patrolman Collins, she bore at the time I talked to her a contusion under her right eye and a swollen right hand;
- Robert Bandy was shot when his back was turned;
- according to Attorney Whaley, application for reduced bail for Mrs. Roberts was "strenuously opposed."
- neither Pvt. Bandy nor his mother knew Margie Polite; the latter was a complete stranger to them;
- Pvt. Bandy was not forced to, nor had any obligation to interfere in the altercation between the Polite woman and Patrolman Collins.

IS A WIDOW

Mrs. Roberts is a widow; Robert her only child.

I've tried all my life to keep out of trouble, and to take care of myself," she said. "I've worked hard and saved a few pennies. It just didn't occur to me that anyone would be interested in my case."

In Ruth Whitehead Whaley, she has one of the ablest women attorneys in New York; in the National Council of Negro Women, she has the backing and support of some of the most prominent women in the Harlem community, many of whom are mothers themselves.

The case of Florine Roberts has started a rallying cry among the women of Harlem. On Wednesday morning, August 11, at 10:00 a.m., at Freedom House, 32 E. 51 st, the National Council of Negro Women has called a meeting of every major organized woman's group, Negro and white, in New York City, to outline a program for future action on the kind of social and economic problems responsible for the rioting in which Florine Roberts became innocently involved.

"It's time for women to take some action," Vivian Mason said. "The men have had their chance and it seems they haven't done too much with it. We have our homes and our families to protect and we're going to do it!"

Harlem Looks to the Future:

For Full Citizenship Rights When Victory Is Finally Won

Harlem was sombre this week. Almost all of the traces of the outbreak that cost the community six lives and $5,000,000 worth of damage were wiped from her face. And her citizens were going back and forth to work just as they did before that terrible night of August 1.

But the quiet was only a surface quiet. Deep in the hearts of Harlemites pounded one all-important question: What was to be done to guarantee that New York was to be a city of unity for a future free from needless strife and destruction?

The People's Voice asked a number of men and women of both races what they thought of the following six-point program:

- no more jimcrow in the armed forces;
- no more second-class citizens;
- equal job opportunity;
- no more riots;
- price enforcement;
- unity for victory at home and abroad.

Following are some of their answers:

PAUL ROBESON, great people's artist: The N. Y. disturbances offer the occasion for immediate and far-reaching efforts to deal with their causes. My observations and conversations with my own people on many trips across the continent make clear to me what those causes are. In N. Y., as throughout the country, Negro people do not like the jimcro practices in our armed forces and the discriminatory and sometimes brutal treatment accorded our boys in and around Southern camps. That is a major complaint. Further, difficulties on the job, which handicap production and make for disunity, continued bad housing and often insufficient recreational outlets, these also are sore points with Negroes everywhere. I would like to see authorities in every key city in the country face this critical situation immediately and with determination. We need more unity; we need greater production; we need all of our energies with which to defeat nazi and fascist forces—the enemy of all.

DR. GEORGE MARSHALL, chairman, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties: Last week's disturbance in Harlem was a shocking indictment of our national consciousness and understanding of the requirements for victory in this peoples' war. As a nation we have permitted flagrant abuses of rent gouging, skyrocketing of living costs, widespread job discrimination, miles of sub-standard housing and related conditions in the largest city in America to go virtually unchallenged. We have permitted our armed forces which fight for the four freedoms to continue a policy of jimcrow. . . . The requirements of decency, of national unity, of strength to achieve a peoples' victory, demand that we move at once to remedy these vicious practices. VIVIAN CARTER MASON, president, National Council of Negro Women: We, who are trying to do something about securing citizenship rights for full citizenship in Harlem which are obvious to everyone, and (2) to develop the absolute spirit and in fact, who are fighting fascism, in which there must be agreement among all groups functioning on behalf of Negroes.

REV. SHELTON HALE BISHOP, rector, St. Philip's P. E. Church: This is a simple and essential program. Let us all unite no matter what our fundamental differences are, on one simple program, especially when that program and the terrible results of their lives.

MABEL STAUPERS, executive secretary, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses: At this moment, the needs of Harlem and other communities can only be met through joint action and unity among all groups functioning on behalf of Negroes.

RUTHVEN OFFORD, secretary, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses: At this moment, the needs of Harlem and other communities can only be met through joint action and unity among all groups functioning on behalf of Negroes.

WILLIAM HASTIE, dean of the Law School, Howard University: There must be agreement among Negroes and all right thinking Americans on the plank of such a full citizenship for Negroes are which accrue in half-citizenship. fighting on two fronts, (1) to and articulation of all people in author, The White Face: I heartily

gram points to peaceful methods of settling our difficulties.

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director, new [illegible]ington Carver School for Harlem: The People's Voice is to be congratulated on presenting to the public a program that will unify the Negro people in their effort to fight prejudice and jim-crow at the same time that they assume their full part in the war for the freedom of all mankind. Any program that has as its aim the betterment of the status of the Negro, contributes to the betterment of all mankind.

ARTHUR OSMAN, president, Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union, Local 65, CIO: Our union welcomes the campaign undertaken by the People's Voice. We are confident it will contribute to that growing unity between Negroes and whites which has already strengthened America's war effort. The life and death struggle which we are waging against the forces of fascism, makes it imperative that no remnants of prejudice be permitted to obstruct the common struggle. In our own union, thousands of Negroes are now working side by side with white workers shipping vital goods both to the soldiers of production and those at the front. Neither employer discrimination nor hangover of old habits were permitted to interfere with our service to the nation—a service strengthened by the solidarity of our members—N[illegible] and white.

GEORGE J. MINTZER, former chief assistant United States District Attorney: Negroes should have the same rights as white citizens—no more and no less. I am opposed to jimcrowism in the armed forces and in civilian life. Negroes should have equal economic opportunities with white people. I am in favor of strict enforcement of price and rent regulation by the OPA everywhere. The absence of these conditions makes for dissatisfaction and disorder.

REV. ADAM C. POWELL, jr., City Councilman: The riot is over. But the conditions which caused it are still with us. These six ways to correct these evils represent the will of the people. They must be adopted by Negroes and whites for the betterment of [illegible]rlem and Ameri[illegible]

FERDINAND SMITH, national secretary, National Maritime Union: This is the kind of a program we must unite on and fight to achieve. We know by now that merely to aim for something is not sufficient. We must organize and struggle to win our aims. And this we must do in a constructive way, pooling our strength and energies rather than pitting them against each other.

The Watchtower

Amsterdam News

By Roy Wilkins

New York, N. Y.

I SEE in the **World Telegram** editorial page that the Harlem riot was caused by Communism; on the **World Telegram** front page that the Klan was responsible. Hearst's Jou[illegible] American got an i[illegible]w with Rep. [illegible]omas of New Jersey, who declared the New Deal caused the riot. Magistrate Aurelio sees some "sinister forces" at work among Negroes and these forces, presumably, caused the riot. Westbrook Pegler says the "easy" policy in the police department of handling Harlem crime caused the riot. Arthur Krock, highly-paid Washington correspondent of **The Times**, thinks the failure of Negroes to stick to the Booker T. Washington theory of hard work and trust in the white folks to do the right thing eventually was responsible.



Mr. Wilkins

There was some sober discussion in the papers and, strange to relate, even in the **Daily News**. The truth of the matter is that the Harlem outbreak—wild, indefensible destruction of property—was the boiling over of pent-up resentment in the breasts of millions of American Negroes all over this country. The vast majority of Negroes are disciplined enough and sensible enough to know that riots settle nothing, and in some cases—as in Harlem—make matters infinitely worse. But some citizens are not disciplined. Some Negroes can stand only so much and then they break. They last out, knowing in advance that they cannot win, but they can't stand any more.

White People Should Know

There is no excuse for white people in high places not knowing how Negroes feel about this war and the treatment their soldiers are getting in the uniform of their country. We whose business it is to know these things and write of them have been telling the world for these many months. We have pleaded with the powers-that-be, on the record and off the record. We have conferred and explained and spelled out the simplest things.

But the people who should have heeded only listened and went on with their same policies. This business of manhandling Negro soldiers is dynamite with the Negro population. It does no good to blame the Negro press. There are Negro papers that are inflammatory and harmful, but they are a small minority. Negroes do not need a Negro paper to tell them how their men are being treated. The six hundred thousand Negroes in the armed services write letters and get furloughs and leaves. They [illegible] relatives who visit them. The story [illegible] and it does not need a Negro [illegible] to spread it.

The Harlem riot was a mad, shameful, disgraceful orgy and Negroes in New York and throughout the nation will suffer from it for years to come. It is true that some demagogues helped to prepare the people who wrecked the community. It is true that the community has screamed police brutality so long that the law has been flouted and decent citizens of Harlem are at the mercy of young ruffians wherever they turn. It is true that, walled into a segregated area, some elements in Harlem have built up an anti-white feeling.

Harlem At Fault, Too

It is true that Harlem has failed to do all it could to order its own house—too much time has been spent cursing and blaming the white folks for everything and not enough time on building responsible solid citizens in the area.

But with all that, it is still true that the terrific pressures and proscriptions which the white majority has put upon the Negro are daily growing more unbearable. The war "for democracy" has sharpened and heightened the tension. It just does not make sense to Negroes that we are fighting to free everyone else and yet are telling black Americans to re-read Booker T. Washington's Atlanta speech of 1895, to be [illegible]nt, to "wait." If the people at [illegible]p are as intelligent and courageous as they should be, they will see the point and act. We cannot have riots. Everyone loses by them, and in war time our country loses, also. If they are to be outlawed permanently our Negroes have got to take their feelings off their sleeves and chips off their shoulders; and our white folks have got to come out of their ment straitjackets on the Negro question.

It Happened in Harlem

New Masses

New York, N. Y.

GET this straight: Harlem was not Detroit. I walked through the streets alone during the fag-end of the disturbances and saw this: Negro air raid wardens chatting with white wardens on the corners. White soldiers talking with Negroes sitting on the front steps this sultry August night. A black man on 137th street asked me for a light: we exchanged a few words. I sensed no ani[illegible] against me, an individual white man.

This I did sense, and I got it in plain English from others I talked to. The Negro says hands off his boy in uniform. That's what touched off the outbreaks. A Negro soldier was shot. Nobody stopped to ask the merits or demerits of the case. A Negro soldier was shot. That news swept through the teeming streets, into the hot, jammed flats, where colored mothers and fathers nursed heartbreak at the treatment their sons were getting in the army. The soldier who was shot was their son. He symbolized all the tragedy of indignity, suffering, and Kluxist murder that had come to their boys in the service of their country. So the streets filled.

This I saw too: the people of Harlem did not smash the store windows, loot the shops. Remember this is the world's greatest Negro city. Three hundred thousand live here. A thousand or so among them did the window-smashing and the looting. Less than one percent. Nobody justified them. One Negro told me: "They had no right. They helped nobody. They hurt our people's cause." This is the feeling of Harlem's overwhelming majority. It is a majority, however, which smarts under the daily injustice of their lot: rents higher than elsewhere in the city for small, dark, rat-infested rooms; skyrocketing prices; Jim Crow dogging them every waking and sleeping hour. They took it, unwillingly enough to be sure, during peacetime. But today we are in the greatest war for liberation in history. We are smashing them on every battlefront: but Jim Crow hasn't been smashed. That hurts.

AS I write things have quieted down. Everybody is on the qui vive for fifth columnists. I doubt if any Christian Fronters, any Hitler-lovers will get further satisfaction at this time. Everybody is on guard—the Negro and white people are cooperating loyally—to restore order.

Elsewhere in this issue I discuss some of the means Negro and white spokesmen urge to eliminate the basis for such outbreaks. It is past the discussion stage: words must turn into deeds. And the first deed must be this: Negro boys in uniform deserve, and must immediately get, every right the white boy in uniform has. Do that and you do a lot. Let's start with that.

JOSEPH NORTH.

SO HARLEM smoldered, and then: "One of our boys was shot." Shot in the back, the story flew. And so it started.

Once begun, the question of putting out the fire confronted the people. They helped in every way they could. So did the police. I watched them in action. They were not Detroit's police. I watched Mayor LaGuardia's way of meeting the emergency. It was not Mayor Jeffries'. I happened to be at the 126th Street police station when the mayor was there. He was on the spot: he hadn't slept for forty-eight hours; he had gathered about him the represen-

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SOAPBOX by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.



POWELL

AUG 14 1943

THE EVENTS of the last week brought shame and disgrace to our city which must be equally shared by every segment of our New York life. Four weeks ago I stood in City Council and said that "what happened in Detroit could happen in New York." I suggested then a method which would have helped. Both the Mayor and the City Council failed to accept this suggestion—a suggestion which was backed up by editorials in many of the papers of New York.

It will not help now for anyone to say "I told you so."

The recent events cannot by any stretch of the imagination nor distortion of fact be called a race riot. The outbreak was a blind smouldering resentment against—

- jim crow of Negro men and women in the Armed Forces;
- the increasing rents and failure of the OPA to establish rent control;
- the wide flourishing of a "Black Market" in Harlem.

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I cannot sing too highly the praises of the excellent, sound and democratic treatment of the outbreak by the Metropolitan press. The editorials were of the very highest standard.

THE THING I WISH TO PRESENT NOW IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN HARLEM CAN HAPPEN AGAIN UNLESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES ARE REMOVED.

There are some things that can and must be done NOW:

- we must immediately have rent control for New York City as of MARCH, 1942. This would instantly relieve much of the resentment of Negro people;

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- we must immediately request that more money be granted and used by the Board of Education for the opening of full time, all day recreational centers, nurseries and play grounds;
- we must request the OPA that still more Negroes be added to the OPA staff, more Negroes be added to the Ration Boards, and that more investigators be assigned to the Harlem area;
- joints like the Hotel Braddock must be closed down;
- the conscience of America must move our President to abolish jim crow in the armed forces. Until this is done there will always be a measure of dissatisfaction on the part of Negroes and hypocrisy on the part of Democracy.

Nothing Solved—But Much Needed

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Mob violence never helped anybody. It results only in the loss of life and property. It never cures anything. Therefore, all New Yorkers should regret the unfortunate Harlem riot last Sunday night.

The riot would have been much worse, however, if it had not been for the honest and courageous action of city officials and responsible Negro leaders. The action of Mayor LaGuardia and the Police Department during the trouble was indeed exceptionally commendable. Co-operating with them 100 per cent were the following Negro leaders: Walter White, of the NAACP; Assistant District Attorney Francis E. Rivers, A. Philip Randolph, Herbert L. Bruce, Frank R. Crosswaith, Arnold Johnson, Police Chaplain John H. Johnson, Harold Burton, Councilman Adam C. Powell, Max Yergan and Ferdinand Smith. The leadership shown by the city officials and the Harlemites mentioned above might well serve as a pattern for officials and responsible citizens in any other city where such an unfortunate event might occur.

What is more important than the riot, however, are its causes. As we see it and know it, these were the causes:

(1) Job discrimination. After more than a decade of depression, during which they were worse off than any other group in the city, Harlemites bitterly resent continued job discrimination against them. They also feel equally bitter about job discrimination against Negroes all over the country.

Within a few months, eight race hate strikes resulting in the loss of three million man hours of work took place in Detroit alone, because employers wanted to upgrade Negro war workers to better jobs. Thousands of white workers struck, thereby closing down the Bethlehem Steel shipyard, Sparrows Point, Md., last week, because the company initiated a plan to train Negro workers as riveters. The Mobile and Beaumont race riots are other serious examples of white workers using force to stop Negroes from job advancement.

(2) Discrimination in the armed services. Ever since the outbreak of the war, Negro soldiers have been intimidated, murdered in some instances, insulted and otherwise unjustly treated. They are compelled to walk, while white soldiers ride on buses from and to camps in the South, because of the Jim Crow system. Many Negro soldiers from the North write letters home to their parents and friends telling them of the way they are treated in the army and in Southern towns. As a result, these parents and others are embittered.

(3) The Negro press, the unions, the NAACP and the March on Washington Movement. Each one of these organizations has kept, in its way, the Negro citizens thoroughly informed as to what is happening racially in this country. Each one has also demonstrated real leadership in continuously demanding full rights of leadership for all citizens, regardless of color.

The Negro press has accepted the challenge and responsibility to fight relentlessly for the rights of Negro people. It has unearthed and published countless instances of unjust treatment of Negroes in the armed forces and in civilian life. It feels that now is the time for true democracy to be practiced at home without leaving out any group of citizens. In this regard, the Negro press has the absolute support of the colored citizenry.

Although some unions still practice racial discrimination and segregation, others practice racial equality. And through their examples of racial and job equality, Negro people have learned that they can obtain economic security only in that way.

The NAACP and the March on Washington Movement, two responsible, fearlessly led organizations, are fighting for the rights of Negro Americans in the armed forces and in civilian life. They are champions of democracy and they also have the support of the Negro people.

NEW YORK

AUG 14 1943

THANK YOU, NEW YORK POLICE

By JOSEPH H. RAINEY

SEP 18 1943

BURLINGTON, Vt.—Rip-pet of green RAINEY SEP 18 1943 grass.

The community is made war silently move to- conscious daily as soldiers from ores of Lake his typical New Camp Ethan Allen, four miles England town from Burlington's City Hall, Inhabitants are proud to claim as their own the University of Vermont. Navy Knox, impressed the popu- parade the streets and cadets, learning the fundamentals about flying, attend classes at the University. Secretary of the with its modernlace more indelibly about our buildings a n dproblem of war by speaking its campus with here Friday night. All this to say that the peo- a beautiful car-



Champlain in this ty-

No one, except a racial bigot, can deny that the Negro people have a just cause for complaint, even during war. Those of us who are as opposed to riots and other racial trouble as any other American citizens are convinced, however, that the only way to get rid of riots is to get rid of the causes for them.

While we are aware that absolute democracy cannot be- attained for all of the people of this country in a short period of time, we believe that America will not be embarrassed before the world by other race riots if the Negro Americans are granted their just deserts of:

(1) Equal job opportunity.
(2) Equal treatment in the armed forces.
(3) Equal protection of their legal and civic rights.

If these elementary rights of citizenship are not granted to Negroes now, other similar disturbances should cause no surprise.

LET FREEDOM REIGN!

Philadelphia Tribune. Philadelphia, Pa.

ple here, just a short distance from Canada, know one thing, that we have a common enemy to defeat in war. . . the Axis. With all this it is difficult to realize that differences exist among ourselves in this country to the degree that lives are lost.

Riots in the south and in Detroit—and the latest, a distance in New York that cost six good American lives.

No celebration is in order after the unfortunate happening in Harlem last week but a close study of the New York disorder and the rioting in Detroit certainly shows that the police of Gotham played a large part in the return of order to the streets of Harlem—quite the centrary to the Detroit fiasco.

An apology is not being offered for the police officer, who shot the Negro soldier and set off the spark that soon resulted in the death of people and the wrecking of much property. This officer did the same thing that the Detroit police took pride in doing, shooting at a human being as if he had more than a cap pistol in his hand. It's unfortunate that so many police have the wrong opinion as to when their gun should be whipped from its holster and used. Disorderly conduct or even interfering with an officer, when he is making an arrest of a person, who has infracted the law in some minor measure, is not a crime punishable by death.

On the other hand the police force, as a whole in New York acted as one should. Instead of going out of the way to shoot and beat the Negroes of their community, they realized it was their duty to protect the citizens of the city and the property therein with the least cost of lives—and that is what, apparently, was done.

The Harlem police force, as every American should, that the Negro in America, has more on his mind than the average American. The Negro is living in broken down houses, being discriminated against in employment, education and even in Army and Navy of the country he loves and is fighting for. He is filled up with tears and his emotions are at a high pitch and Harlem's disturbances were brought about, after the soldier was shot, and the Negroes gave vent to these emotions. THIS THE NEW YORK POLICE KNEW.

THIS is what police and others should know in every community in our country today and if something is done to better the conditions for America's black brothers, police won't have to worry about curbing disturbances such as those in Detroit or New York.

Nevertheless—we must say—THANK YOU, NEW YORK POLICE and SHAME ON YOU DETROIT POLICE.

Merchants Tribune Lose Over $100,000

Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW YORK, (ANP)—Peace and calm had apparently returned to Harlem by Thursday after a flareup that took a toll of six lives, 1,000 injured, and caused property damage estimated at $5,000,000.

So pleased with the situation was Mayor La Guardia that he left for Washington and a food shortage conference which he had cancelled when the disturbance occurred. The 11 p. m. partial curfew was lifted and the ban on liquor sales was removed.

Police who had been heavily concentrated in the riot area were withdrawn Wednesday in large numbers although a force bigger than usual still patrolled the district. Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine relieved officers from requirements of "Chart No. 2 duty" which had been in effect since the outbreak. Chart No. 2 calls for police to work eight hours, remain on reserve eight more hours, then work eight more hours before being eligible for 16 hours off. The 6,000 officers sent to Harlem were affected by the order.

The disturbance, which resulted when a white policeman shot and wounded a Negro soldier who sought to prevent his arrest of a woman at a closed hotel charged with being a disorderly house, hads its echoes however. Pvt Robert Bandy, 26, an MP, attached to a unit in New Jersey charged with setting off the riot by his action, was turned over to military authorities after his release from Bellevue hospital.

Bandy upon his discharge from the hospital was arraigned before Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio in felony court to face trial for felonious assault. Another soldier, Pvt. John Logwood, of the 34th Aviation squadron at Mitchell Field, L. I., was also hailed in court and charged with inciting to riot. Charges were dismissed against the servicemen at the intervention of Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker, of the judge advocate's staff of the second service command and they were turned over to army authorities for action.

Meantime normal traffic was resumed in Harlem with private automobiles, taxis and buses operating for the first time since the rioting, said police Inspector Edmund J. Meade. While the disorders raged only food and milk trucks were allowed to enter the area and they were provided with police escorts.

Harlem merchants whose stores were wrecked and looted by the rioters had filed claim totaling more than $100,000 with the police by Wednesday. Those who could get new supplies of goods to sell, and who were not too much afraid of further rioting, reopened for business. Many stores had boarded windows and empty show cases.

Two groups of Negro civic leaders called on Edward L. Coffey, chief district Office of Price administration attorney, and made recommendations to improve enforcement of price ceilings in Harlem. They had been invited, he said, "to find out what OPA can do to help the situation in Harlem." One group included Lester B. Granger, executive director, and Warren M. Banner, research director of the National Urban league. The other was headed by Charles A. Collier, executive secretary of the City-Wide Citizens Committee on Harlem.

Burt Gilbert, owner of the Hotel Braddock where the trouble started Sunday night, voluntarily closed the hotel Wednesday. He first asked the police to withdraw the police detail of six men that had been assigned to raided premises on duty there and closed down when this request was refused. Gilbert is awaiting a hearing on the charge of failing to keep a record of all guests.

Fourteen men and six women who had been arrested in a house-to-house convass searching for loot appeared in the line-up at police headquarters. The police recovered thousands of dollars worth of stolen furniture, musical instruments, radios, foodstuffs and clothing from the prisoners, who were charged with receiving and possessing stolen property.

Harlem Explains Its Riot Emotions

The Man in the Street Tells the AFRO What Went on in His Mind

By DOUGLASS HALL
Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK. — Harlem has returned to normal again and that is GOOD and BAD. It is good that the mystic "riot" which upset the status quo here a few weeks ago is over; it is bad that this Harlem had to return to the same old high-rent, rat and roach-infested dwellings—back to the worst congested place in the country.

But Harlem is peaceful again. Shoppers stroll along 125th Street doing business as usual and baby carriages line the streets like so many army jeeps with little girls watching them for a few cents per carriage.

Street corners are heavily laden with "zoot-suited cats," but they don't want to talk about the riot.

Clothes of many kinds and colors hang from windows and little boys swing on the back of streetcars.

The only reminders of the riot is an ocassional broken window and perhaps, a few more cops than usual.

The Braddock Hotel, where the riot began, has closed its doors for repairs. It could not do business with a detail of twenty-one policemen on duty there at all times. It is still boarded up.

The dark, spooky-like, unlighted Harlem is no more. At night lights shine brightly on all corners.

Now that the strain and tension is over, Harlemites can tell you some strange tales concerning what happened. An old woman who has lived here for some time cited the fact that such emotional outburst don't pay.

"See that woman sitting out there on the street?" she queried. "She doesn't have a single piece of furniture in her house.

"She sent all her children out and took a lot of new furniture during the riot, throwing her old stuff out. When the riot was over she had to return to the same high-rent, rat and roach-infested dwellings—back to the worst congested place in the country.

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...EDITORIAL...

Let's be quite frank about this. Age New York, N. Y.

Sunday night's disturbance was not only disgraceful, it will probably be one of the most harmful things to the community that ever happened in Harlem. Those persons who have been arguing that the rioting which brought death to six, injuries to hundreds and property damage to the community estimated in the millions will result in benefits to Harlem are wrong.

The fact is that the decent respectable Negroes comprising 95 per cent of Harlem's population have been done a grievous wrong by the worthless five per cent.

Only too clear is it that this was no race riot. But equally clear is the fact that a handful of Negroes, comparatively speaking, have once again stigmatized the entire race in a way which will take a long time to erase.

The hoodlums—and they can be nothing else—who, by bad example, fanned the flames of mob spirit until they licked and seared almost every corner of the community may find perverted joy in the ill-gotten gains of their night of vandalism but actually they have only pillaged themselves.

The merchandise they stole and the shops they wrecked are a part of the Harlem in which they live. Those who will really suffer from these losses are the mass of decent people in Harlem.

It's hardly likely that any of the hoodlums are particularly concerned over the prospects of getting work—but their actions of Sunday night will quickly become added arguments thrown in the faces of their respectable neighbors when they go in search of employment.

The mantle of being sub-human savages unworthy of being treated as human beings which ignorant and prejudiced whites so often apply to Negroes would not be amiss on these hoodlums. But by their actions Sunday night they have dragged into the same morass the innocent thousands of their fellow Negroes and laid the community wide open again to the "smear" campaigns against which we have fought so often and so long.

Not only in New York but throughout the country, believers in Hitler's contemptuous regard of black men will be quick to point to Sunday night's episode as proof of their beliefs. And they will find willing ears.

Our struggle for deserved equality of opportunity and treatment cannot be won by treading on our brothers' backs. We cannot hope to gain the respect of other groups until we have shown the ability to govern ourselves.

LEADERS AGREE RIOT BARRIER TO PROGRESS

Philadelphia Tribune

AUG 7 1943

RAYMOND JONES, candidate for the State Assembly from the 21st District: "The Mayor must know that the people of Harlem are backing him in seeing that this riot comes to an early end."

* * * *

Assemblyman DANIEL BURROWS: "I don't know when I have had anything to hurt me as much as this riot. I am sure that the Mayor knows that all good thinking, law-abiding colored people in Harlem are with him in helping to give this riot condition its knock-out blow."

Philadelphia, Pa.

REV. J. H. JOHNSON, outstanding Episcopal Rector: "The real cause of the riot must be considered first and then a remedy applied. To me there seem to be three points standing out that might cause even the strongest mind to waver in these times. They are: (1) housing; (2) the high cost of food; (3); child delinquency. If we will go to work on these at once, we shall have struck at the root of the causes for uprisings like this."

* * * *

FRANK FORBES, nationally known athlete and baseball official: "The conduct of these youngsters was disgraceful. They started this fuss and should be soundly spanked.'

* * * *

..REV. T. S. HARTEN, Baptist pastor in Brooklyn: "The younger element has lost all reason. They fail to come to church and absolutely refuse advice from anybody."

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ATTY. THOMAS DYETT, former Assistant District Attorney General of New York: "Would sooner have had anything to happen than this. It throws us back in our progress."

* * * *

JUDGE JAMES S. WATSON, of the New York Municipal Court: "It is the most deplorable thing that could have happened in these times."

* * * *

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters: "I view the outburst of violence in Harlem with great sorrow and distress. Violence and bloodshed is not the road to racial peace and cooperation and community racial advancement. Violence begets violence, bloodshed begets bloodshed, and always the minority groups are the chief victims."

* * * *

LESTER B. GRANGER, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League: "Harlem riot stands as warning reminder that attitudes within Negro group are almost as serious danger to interracial relations as hostilities shown by white. Hoodlums who robbed and destroyed property felt secure because they assumed they were expressing mood of law-abiding majority. Reconstruction of sound racial attitudes must be primary responsibility of thoughtful racial leadership."

* * * *

WALTER F. WHITE, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said: "Have checked throughout Harlem and everything calm. New York police handled situation with celerity, restraint and complete fairness. Mayor La Guardia and Police Commissioner Valentine personally on job without sleep from Sunday night until this morning. Deep-rooted causes were: First, resentment against mistreatment of Negro soldiers in South; Second, continuation of segregation and discrimination; Third, misery and unhappiness because of Ghetto evils involving housing, food costs and job opportunities."

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REV. ADAM C. POWELL, City Councilman, pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church and editor of the newspaper, PV: "It is a blind, smoldering and unorganized resent against Jim Crow treatment of Negro men in the armed forces and the high rents and cost of living forced upon Negroes in Harlem." He said that the disturbances were "in no way racial."

* * * *

EDWARD S. LEWIS, National Urban League official, said the "disorders shocked the decent law-abiding Negro citizens of Harlem. God it's over. Let's try and forget what happened." That is a natural reaction—one doesn't want to remember a nightmare. But we MUST NOT forget what happened.

"We" means not only Negroes, not only Harlem, but whole of New York, the whole country, black AND white. Unless all of us learn a lesson from what happened remember it—we are in danger of having it happen and with even more disastrous consequences, if not New York, then elsewhere.

* * * *

DR. C. B. POWELL, publisher and editor of the "Amsterdam News-Star, said: "The disturbance, in my opinion, were due to hoodlumism, symptomatic of twelve years of depression, aggravated by economic discrimination. In my opinion, there is no element of race rioting in the situation. To prevent a recurrence, positive action must be taken to give better job opportunities and better living conditions for the residents of Harlem."

It Must Not Happen Again!

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

The six persons killed, the hundreds of wounded, the hundreds more awaiting trial, the enormous property damage—these are the shameful, tragic manifestations of what happened. We all knew what happened was wrong. The Negro leaders who stood vigil with the Mayor that night at once condemned the lawlessness and violence. And fifteen hundred Harlem men and women, the Negro Civilian Committee of 1,500, volunteered the next day to help the police maintain order.

AUG

A S HARLEM RECOVERS from the terrible night of August first, we hear people saying, "Well, thank (An Editorial

Harlem—whatever the Westbrook Peglers and others

may say—is a law-abiding community. Simple hoodlumism does not suddenly swoop through a whole community unless it is planned. And we know that the August first outbreak was not planned or premeditated.

It was an explosion—a blind and violent explosion of resentment against all the injustices and discrimination inflicted upon the Negro people in Harlem and in the nation at large. In 1935 it was the rumor of a boy having been killed that set off the explosion; this time it was the shooting of a soldier.

Unless we—all of us—understand this, we will again sit back complacently as we did in 1935, once "normalcy" has been restored. Complacency now, however, when we need a united nation to carry through to victory, is out of the question. The grievances of the Negro must be eliminated by local, state and federal authorities. Price and rent gouging in Negro communities, discrimination and violence against Negroes in uniform, economic and civil jim-crowism in general must be done away with, for these are the stuff out of which explosions are made.

The elimination of these grievances is a job to be done by all of us, Negro and white, together. There was no RACE riot in Harlem; there need be none. Mayor La Guardia can do a great deal toward guaranteeing that by setting up a committee of responsible Negro and white citizens—no, not to investigate—but to help the city authorities do what we know needs to be done.

At the same time, our federal officials, particularly in Army, Navy and Justice Departments, must take positive steps to stop the treatment of the Negro as a second-class citizen.

This is the lesson of the night of August first. And we cannot afford to let it be forgotten.

Riots in Harlem

New Republic New York, N.Y.

As this paragraph is written a great fear hangs over New York City. There was riot in Harlem. The disturbances started on Sunday, August 1, when a white policeman shot and wounded a Negro soldier in an argument over the arrest of a Negro woman. Crowds assembled around the hospital where the wounded soldier was taken. The false rumor spread that he had been killed. Disorders began. Special detachments of police, firemen and military police were summoned, and a full-fledged riot was under way, marked by the smashing of store windows, looting, stabbing and shooting. Six were killed, hundreds injured. What New York City, and with it the whole nation, had feared ever since the outbreak of race rioting this summer, appeared to have spread to the largest Negro section in the North.

It is too early as yet to know the exact nature of the riot. Negro leaders denied that it was a race riot, asserting that clashes among white and Negroes were only incidental to the disorders, which consisted mainly of looting. But one thing is clear—New York City, which had had the most to fear from the outbreak of rioting, had not done enough to prevent it. Harlem remained as overcrowded, as poverty-stricken as ever. Inadequate housing and the high cost of living remained as serious a set of problems as they ever were. According to a survey published last year by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the cost of living in Harlem was six percent higher than in all other comparable depressed areas. The discrepancy between income and cost of living can only have risen since then.

These are the factors which make for violence in Harlem, which have encouraged hoodlums and have set the conditions for rioting. Effective and admirable as were the many appeals which the mayor, the NAACP and Negro leaders made to the people of Harlem, it will take more than words to prevent further, and worse, outbreaks in New York City.

Editorial Comment on the Harlem Riot

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Harlem Riot

(From the New York Daily News)

Rents are generally high in Harlem; higher in many cases than the rents charged white people for similar accommodations in other parts of town.

As a result, Harlem dwelling houses and tenements are usually crowded.

Harlem, in short, is no paradise, and it is not surprising that it boiled over in this summer of ungodly heat and mounting public excitement about the war.

Yet, if "Porgy and Bess" tells the truth about colored people in the South, most of them would like to come north and live in Harlem. Up here, they at least are not treated as hopelessly and permanently inferior to white people; and most of the Harlem colored people probably make a good deal more money up here than they could make down South, at least in normal times.

Harlem's Tragedy

(From the New York Times)

We should have an inquiry, participated in by the colored people and white people who for a long time have been working for a better understanding — and so quietly that their names seldom appear in the newspapers.

Can the police system in Harlem be improved? Can more colored policemen be appointed? Is deputizing colored people to patrol the streets Mayor La Guardia recognized the significance of such appointments.

Warning in a Hoodlums' Riot

(From the New York Herald Tribune)

One could wish that the story of an incident in another part of the city on that same night could have spread through Harlem as quickly as did that of the wounding of Private Robert Bandy.

A colored man, William Brown, whose legs were crushed by a subway train, was saved by the quick action of a white soldier, Sergeant C. Wilkens. The soldier tore off his shirt and applied tourniquets while one of his companions called an ambulance.

Had this story spread, a crowd might have gathered in front of St. Vincent's Hospital to pay tribute to a life saved as one did gather in front of Sydenham Hospital to protest the other affair.

No Time for Complacency

(From the New York Times)

New York City can do something to improve conditions in Harlem, not because they affect the colored people as such, but because they affect citizens as such. Even in the good deeds we hope to do we ought to forget as much as we can the element of race. Harlem doesn't want special favors. It wants fair play, which means simply the same opportunities and facilities that other people and other parts of the city enjoy. It has shown its loyalty by helping to suppress its hoodlums. Let the rest of the city join loyally to change the conditions which produce hoodlums.

Dixie's Fault, of Course

(From the Richmond Times Dispatch

Colored youths roved all over Harlem looting stores, most of them owned and operated by colored people. These youths also engaged in wholesale fist fights with one another, and stabbed one another with knives, razors and other handy weapons. You can readily see why.

Colored soldiers are not treated as they should be in the South. Therefore colored hoodlums in Harlem decided to carve one another up, to loot and wreck stores operated by members of their own race, and to attack policemen (all of whom come from Mississippi, as is well known).

. . Was It a Race Riot?

(From the Richmond News Leader)

It will be interesting to hear the comments of Mayor La Guardia and of those New York "liberals" who constantly are reproaching the South for its treatment of the colored people. Has any Southern city made a worse mess of race relations than New York has?

Denounces "Disgrace Theorizing" on Riot

Amsterdam News

Sir: The recent Harlem riot brought disgrace upon our community. I deplore mob violence and vandalism, no matter who the guilty parties are. A few thoughtless individuals took things in their own hands, and thereby gave Harlem another black eye. I know full well the underlying and justifiable causes of the bitterness that exist in Harlem. The people here have suffered much, and we are still suffering, even at the hands of our own federal government. This we must ever bear in mind—to contend successfully for equality, justice and fair play depends on the decent elements in our community. The rowdies and hoodlums will never win one battle for us. The colored people of America, and many white people, too, are determined that there shall be racial justice in America and soon. Compromise, pussy-footing and double-talk are out. It is inescapable that in the fight for racial justice, mass pressure must be brought into play, and that pressure is certain to be irritating. As decent citizens we owe it to our cause and to ourselves to see that the militant action we take is courageous, lawful, and effective. It can never be so, if the rowdies and criminal element set the pace. In the face of a distressing situation, I pay tribute to the calmness and efficiency of the mayor, the police

ms and should not be en- A 100% race man.
has served notice to the PHILIP RANDOLPH—Excellent.
ate and Federal official. A real man and a political labor
are darn sick and tired o strategist. Let's have more of him.
and of de-mock-rosy. Mr. Editor, these are the findings
complacent and the Presi
the United States hesitant
ds to the welfare of the
No more of that Elmer Car-
it seems as if the Congress from your humble servant.
U. S. is impotent, the State
N. S. Giscome.

Philip Randolph in the August 7th issue.

MALLIET—His article was grand that has been lifted the veil of mystery from our eyes.

ADAMS—Very good. He has hit the nail on the head.

CARTER—Rotten! A coward's picnic in the south—laud the dent of the U. S. in regards to the race. No more of that Elmer Carmen will sell the race. Never read of southern white editers or writers when reporting on a lynching. Hoodlumism thougi bad ir

Grand!
encouraged.

Analysis of Amsterdam Coverage of Rioting

Sir: This is one of your readers giving an analysis regarding the recent riot in Harlem as reported by your various feature writers, A. M. Wendell Malliet, Julius Adams, Elmer A. Carter, S. W. Garlington, A. S. W.

61-1943

NEW YORK

Letters to The Times

New York Times

Riots in Harlem Analyzed

New York, N. Y.

Committee of 1935 Made Suggestions Which Seem to Have Been Ignored

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In 1935 Mayor La Guardia appointed a committee to investigate conditions which led to the riot of March 19, 1935, in Harlem. Hearings were held and a report was made to the Mayor. That report in its entirety has never been published.

The recent riot, like that of 1935, was an explosion induced by pent-up feelings of resentment. Patrolman James Collins did his duty properly and courageously in making his arrest, and the police handled the resulting situation efficiently. But the Harlem people immediately jumped to the conclusion that a colored soldier had been wantonly killed. The attitude of Harlem was "a white cop shot a Negro soldier. Them cops got what was coming to them."

Police Attitude Criticized

I was chairman of a subcommittee which concerned itself chiefly with the causes of the riot of 1935. Not the least of the reasons for a riot to have followed a small incident appeared to us to have been the long-time attitude of the police toward the people in that section. The police should be regarded by a community as friends; in Harlem the police are regarded as enemies.

After reciting violations of the civil rights of the people by the police, our report of 1935 said: "* * * the insecurity of the individual in Harlem against police aggression is in our judgment one of the most potent causes of the existing hostility to authority. Various witnesses testified as to illegal searches of their persons and property by the police * * * "

The report continued: "We are reluctantly compelled to believe that the instances cited above are not exceptional and that nothing is needed in Harlem more than a return by the police to the attitude that the first function of a police officer is to win the good-will of those among whom he is stationed by unfailing courtesy and kindliness and that 'best friend' attitude which was so strongly urged upon them by Commissioner Arthur Woods.

New Attitude Needed

"We believe that no people would respond more readily and quickly to such a changed attitude than the people of Harlem, and that that changed attitude on both sides would make for far better police efficiency and morale than is possible under existing circumstances, when both parties view one another with apparent hostility. Above all, every officer stationed in Harlem should be instructed that the rights of Negroes, now flouted, are as much to be respected by the police as are those of more fortunate citizens who reside on Fifth or Park Avenues.

"We think that the police should be made to realize primarily that they are the servants of the public, whether white or colored, and that they themselves under no circumstances whatever have the right to violate the laws they are sworn to uphold. They must be taught that their right to make arrests is strictly limited by law and that the necessity of obtaining warrants both for arrests and searches applies to them and to all citizens."

Recommendations Formulated

Our committee recommended: (1) That the police obey the law in their treatment of residents of Harlem; (2) that policemen be given thorough instruction in the law as to the limitations of their rights and the few occasions on which they may use violence; (3) that the Commissioner of Police arrange for the appointment of a committee of from five to seven Harlem citizens of both races to whom colored people may make complaint if mistreated by the police; (4) that officers of the law who violate the law should not only be subject to investigation and punishment by the Police Department but that action should be taken by the District Attorney, where it is warranted, just as vigorously as where any other person is charged with a crime.

Presumably the Mayor appointed our committee with some purpose. So far as I know recommendations along the above lines were ignored.

Of course, conditions in Harlem, the wretched housing, unduly high rents, lack of recreation grounds, discrimination in industry against colored people, are largely responsible for an emotional situation which might at any time cause a flare-up. But in addition to this is a lack of proper treatment of the people by the police. Our report to Mayor La Guardia ended:

"The present economic conditions may make difficult the carrying out of many recommendations concerning Harlem, but here is one problem that can be solved without the expenditure of money."

ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS.

New York, Aug. 4, 1943.

Curb for Hoodlumism Urged

To the Editor of The New York Times:

The hoodlumism commented on in THE TIMES editorial, "No Time for Complacency," took a violent and extreme form in Harlem, but suggestions of it can be seen so frequently in public places, such as the subways, as to be most disquieting. As an incident of this type of thing, yesterday, while riding in the subway, I observed five rough-looking hoodlums of 16 or 17 push their way into one of the trains and make general nuisances of themselves. Until their departure, their horse-play, shrieks and violent language made the journey almost unendurable. There was, of course, not the slightest regard for the rights or comfort of the other passengers.

In the case of the Harlem riots, inexcusable as they were, there were underlying grievances which contributed to the regrettable situation. There is no such excuse for the near-gangsterism to which I refer.

I submit that this situation requires serious study and prompt attention, otherwise we are certain to be confronted with more manifestations of hoodlumism in the future.

GEORGE BOOCHEVER.

New York, Aug. 4, 1943.

Let Us Alone, Please

Atlanta, Ga. Journal

August 5, 1943

IN THEIR REPORTS of Sunday night's rioting in Harlem, the New York newspapers all printed a statement which in substance conformed with this paragraph which we quote from the *Associated Press'* story which was distributed nationally:

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said the police squad was investigating reports that hoodlums from Southern cities had been sent into Harlem to cause trouble. Police have not been able to confirm these reports.

This statement is a flagrant example of how not to help a bad situation. For one thing, it is the promulgation of a rumor for which no substantiation has been found. If it has been impossible to confirm it, why give it publication? For another, because of the vagueness of the language and the wide expanse of inference it opens up, it could easily become the means of further aggravation of a situation which the civil authorities of New York admit to be serious.

The statement should never have been made. So long as it lacks substance, it should be disavowed and retracted by the responsible government of New York City. It is too much in accord with the attempts of those self-appointed Negro leaders at the North to blame the South for every friction which occurs between the races, and whose incitations probably lie at the bottom of the tragic destruction of lives and property which befell New York Sunday night.

Rioting is not a new experience for Harlem. On the night of March 19-20, 1935, the district was swept by a wave of murder, assault and pillage in which four persons were killed, hundreds shot, stabbed, clubbed or stoned, and millions of dollars worth of property destroyed.

Blame for the two Harlem riots does not lie at the doorstep of the South nor does it rest on the many honest, decent, law-abiding members of the Negro race. The fault lies with the hoodlums of the race whose criminal instincts can be stirred to savagery by the incitations of their vicious leaders.

It is a matter of remarkable coincidence that an identical situation arose Sunday in two cities as far apart as Savannah and New York.

Near the Union Station in Savannah, Policemen Nasworthy and Knapp arrested a Negro woman who appeared to be intoxicated. A Negro soldier, a sergeant named Levant, endeavored to interfere and was joined by a crowd of soldiers of his race. Military and civil police reinforcements responded with speed, and quiet was restored in short order.

The Harlem riot grew out of the attempt of a policeman to arrest a drunken Negro woman in the lobby of a hotel where she was creating a disturbance. A Negro soldier seized the policeman's club and beat him with it. The policeman shot him as he then endeavored to escape. Then followed the rioting and pillage that continued for 18 hours.

Identical situations had vastly different consequences. A reign of terror and unbridled violence ensued in New York City. A hospital was besieged, the stores of hundreds of white merchants were looted while the Negro merchants hung out signs of ownership that spared their establishments; more than 100 white policemen were beaten. In Savannah the flurry of excitement among the transients in the railway station area was quelled quickly and the city went about its normal activities without further disorder.

The up-lifters at the North had better confine their activities to their own localities. They have troubles and problems there in plenty.

Let us at the South handle ours in our own way. The good people of the two races here can get along better in their efforts for mutual welfare, without the meddling of outsiders.

Chicago Tribune Aug 7 1943

TROUBLE IN HARLEM.

Mayor La Guardia of New York rightly emphasizes the fact that the disturbances in Harlem, which resulted in the looting of some stores and the loss of six Negro lives, were not a race conflict. The Negro population includes a minor proportion of hoodlums and criminals just as the white population does, and, quite obviously, the decent members of both races in Harlem want neither race consider that they are subjected to the injustice with which Negro soldiers have

should occur in the city which maintains the largest municipal police force in the nation requires some explanation. That explanation can be found in the policies of Mayor La Guardia.

One of his devices for winning the Negro vote in New York has been to hamstring the New York police department in its ordinary law enforcement activities in the Negro sections. This has been going on for a number of years. Obviously, it was a disservice to the decent Negroes of New York just as it was to the other decent people of that city. His policies have come home to roost. Any time that hoodlums are given the impression that their depredations will go unpunished they will get out of hand. No question of race is involved here, naturally. What is involved is the erratic little mayor's political interference with law enforcement.

News HARLEM

The ghastly explosion in Harlem is the latest in a series of outbreaks in virtually every section of the country. Superficially, the New York incident differs from the others in that it cannot be described as a "race riot." That is, it involved no collision between civilian gangs of whites and blacks. But in all other respects, and fundamentally, it was only another instance of the same response to unhappy conditions. For that reason, it makes thoughtful Americans realize that they are sitting on a keg of dynamite. What happened in New York—what happened in Detroit, Beaumont, Los Angeles—could very well happen anywhere—given the powder and the spark.

The war has made us all jumpy. It has given release to smoldering bitterness. It accentuates prejudices, and it deepens resentments. Violence, lawlessness, is the first resort in such circumstances. In Los Angeles it was directed against the "zoot suiters," who were mainly young Mexicans, with a sprinkling of Negroes. In Detroit it was directed against Negroes who had become economic intruders. In New York it was the reaction of Negroes hugging a sense of grievance. Everywhere people are quick to see red, because they are living in a world which is bleeding so profusely in the name of a thing called war. Birmingham, Ala.

Not only that. When a nation like ours is at war, subversionists are bound to be in the picture. They are not working as openly as they once did. But it is too much to expect them to give up their skulduggery. So that quite probably sinister forces have been helping to stir aggrieved groups in our population into demonstrations. No community in which the Ku Klux Klan is flourishing and in which Gerald Smith is holding forth—I mean Detroit—can have failed to feel the poison of such activities. And it may be that in Harlem vicious exploiters of Negro susceptibilities and resentments have not been idle.

But such items in the main account should not be overemphasized. There are other considerations which seem to be of major importance. Harlem is *sui generis*. It is a terribly crowded section, in which bad housing and poor recreation heighten the effect of economic disadvantage and mental and moral unreadiness for life in a metropolis. The upshot is that Harlem has become a festering sore, with everybody expecting something dreadful to break out there. Just that has taken place, and a community as great and rich as New York stands convicted of having failed, in spite of multiplied warnings, to do what it could to temper this whirlwind.

Peglerism on Harlem

ITS level of journalistic honesty and its attitude on national unity already set by Westbrook Pegler, the New York World-Telegram has run true to that low form in its editorial discussion of Harlem.

On Tuesday that eminent newspaper presented its readers with "the basic cause" for the difficulties which beset that section of New York over the past week-end. What is this "basic cause," according to the Howard organ? The wretched conditions in Harlem? The discrimination against the Negro people? No, it is none of these.

They may be the conclusions reached by others, including practically the entire press, outstanding civic leaders, prominent Negroes and labor officials. But these people, the Pegler paper indicates, are all wrong.

The "real cause" is that which could be expected to be thought up by a newspaper whose understanding of the Negro people has been so frequently expressed in the insults heaped upon our thirteen million colored fellow-citizens by Pegler's columns. That cause, mark you, is the "Communists." And indeed, along with them all "left-wingers" are held to blame. They have committed the heinous offense, says this Peglerite effusion, of noting that there are handicaps and harassments foisted upon the Negro people.

It may be more than a coincidence that the fascist-minded Pegler has been running a series of articles in which the President and his closest co-workers are termed "Communists and fellow-travelers." Then, for good measure, Pegler tries to "prove" that the present Washington administration is actually "fascist," at the same time. It is worthy of note that this Peglerian pearl has been picked by Alf Landon and is evidently to become the property of the whole fascist camp.

Havoc In Harlem

Star of Zion

The rioting which oddly enough broke out in Harlem on a Sunday night has been rescued from the stigma of being a race riot, but the disgracefulness of the inexcusable affair cannot be so easily erased. With so many people crowded into such a small area it is inevitable that there should be a large number of irresponsible people, but it is all the more reason for extra precaution and for making impossible such "thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, (and) irresponsible people." It is a miracle, indeed, that so few people were killed although more than five hundred people were actually injured, to say nothing of the enormous property damage.

We are not greatly surprised by the explanation of the trouble given by prominent persons on the scene, but we confess we are not quite willing to accept these explanations without an explanation. For instance, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell ventures to say that the trouble "is a blind, smouldering and unorganized resentment against Jim Crow treatment of Negro men in the armed forces and the usual high rents and cost of living forced upon Negroes in Harlem." Secretary Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People speaking in the same vein said: "It cannot be too clearly emphasized that this was not a race riot in any sense of the term," but continuing, "the mistreatment of Negro soldiers, particularly in the South, is a terribly sore point with Negroes (and) thus the beginning of the trouble." Charlotte, N. C.

Naturally, we do not want to say: "Physician, heal thyself," but for a long time we have had the feeling that Rev. A. Clayton Powell and his newspaper have done a great deal of damage alongside the good which may have been accomplished. And, holding such a responsible place as a member of the City Council, he should feel an additional responsibility to exercise the greatest caution as to what he says that might inflame the people.

Magistrate Aurelio's fear that "it seems (to me) some insidious propaganda is misleading otherwise would-be peaceful people" seems to go very close to the heart of the matter. One thing is clear, the true cause of this trouble must be found and faced in Harlem and the remedy must be applied, or there will be more and far more serious trouble.

It may be true, and probably is, that racial difficulties and unrest are in every locality but a part of a great national and world-wide pattern, but the local situations are the devices which either keep matters under control or furnish the mechanism for setting off a conflagration of trouble.

In a word, leaders in New York must realize that they have a civic responsibility, which, in a measure, outweighs that of any other community in the nation, and they cannot with safety and immunity neglect it while giving concern to the national problems as grave and important as these may be.

Negro Leadership in Harlem

Star of Zion

It seems that Negro leaders of Harlem and New York, who defined the recent riot as being partly a protest against the discriminatory high cost of living there, laid themselves wide open to charges that they themselves knew all along and all about these conditions, but have done absolutely nothing to remedy the almost unbearable condition of affairs.

George Schuyler says: "Negro 'leaders' had no influence whatever on the mob because most of them are not leaders OF the people but leaders FOR the people, and picked by whites. Harlem Negro leadership like most of that elsewhere is completely bankrupt of either ideas or initiative. They know the nature of the problem confronting their people and have written voluminously about it, but they have evolved no constructive policies." Charlotte, N. C.

With special reference to the exhorbitant rents, one of the sorest spots in the whole affair, Schuyler says: "There has never been a time when a powerful Negro-owned corporation could not have bought or built multiple dwellings in every part of New York City." And then he discourses on the enormous consumption power of Negroes in Harlem, but that they neither own or produce anything. Harlem "has swarms of churches, clubs and associations, each with money and members, but no machinery for canalizing this wealth and energy along constructive lines aimed at eliminating some of the evils which cause outbreaks of hoodlumism."

If you are inclined to discount what Schuyler says, knowing his radical point of view, we call to your attention the rebuke of P. L. Prattis, who says: the "Harlem eruption exposes the gap between followship and leadership and weakness of the latter." He says further: "It is foolish for most Negro leaders to boast of any claim of influence among the masses of Negroes. They simply don't have it." And the sad fact is that this is probably true in even greater measure than we realize.

It is probable that Negroes in Harlem and the nation will find no solution to the major problems until there emerges some leader from the common people, who does enjoy their confidence and who has the strength and courage to lead them out of the wilderness.

Readers Comment on Recent Rioting

'Causes,' Suggested Solutions Listed; Here Are Samples Of Many Responses

AUG 14 1943

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

CALLS FOR FEDERAL ACTION

Sir: On the same day which recorded the first shocking details of the shameful Harlem riot, there appeared, in a kind of ironic juxta-position to that disgraceful episode, this statement made by the Most Reverend Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, just back home after almost 50,000 miles of air travel on all our fighting fronts:

"My mission was the mission of all Americans, at home or abroad, in war or at peace—and that is to make America always stand for good."

There, in that simple sentence, a great American, a great servant of humanity, has defined not only his mission, but our mission as a nation and as individuals; defined it with moving eloquence: "to make America always stand for good."

AUG 14 1943

In view of what happened in Harlem last Sunday night, I wish to commend this American definition to all my fellow-New Yorkers, to all my fellow-Americans.

For the outbreak in our midst was not a single isolated incident, not merely a local affair. It has already seen its vicious counterpart, in one form or another, in several of our larger cities. It points unmistakably and grimly to certain identical conditions; it follows a certain sinister sameness of pattern.

Curb the Disease

If we are to curb the disease, we must ascertain and remove the causes. Whatever the actual spark may be which precipitates the explosion, the real focus of peril is hidden deep underneath the turbulent surface. It is like the slow insidious accumulation of dangerous gases which one day becomes too powerful for its pent-up area.

This intolerable situation calls not for speeches and pronouncements, howsoever high-sounding they may be; it cannot be remedied by short-lived outbursts of civic agitation after the event. It demands complete freedom from politics. It demands a sober sutdy, by serious and competent men and women, actuated only by the loftiest conception of their duty to their city, their fellow-citizens, their country and their God.

Urges U. S. Commission

I am convinced that we must attack this entire problem on a national basis boldly, fearlessly and thoroughly from an American point of view and with American methods. I hereby suggest that the President of the United States appoint a Commission with full powers to investigate and to recommend a nation-wide program of action. I suggest that membership on this Commission include Americans of outstanding character, probiety, courage and American ideals of service, such as the following:

RELIGION
Archbishop Francis J. Spellman
Bishop Henry St. George Tucker (Virginia)
Bishop Francis J. McConnell (New York)

PUBLIC
Honorable Herbert Hoover
Walter White (NAACP)
Reverend Mother M. Katherine Drexel (Cornwells Hgts., Pa.)

INDUSTRY
John S. Burke (B. Altman & Co.)
R. E. Dougherty (New York Central R.R. Co.)
Theodore G. Mont... (The Borden Company)

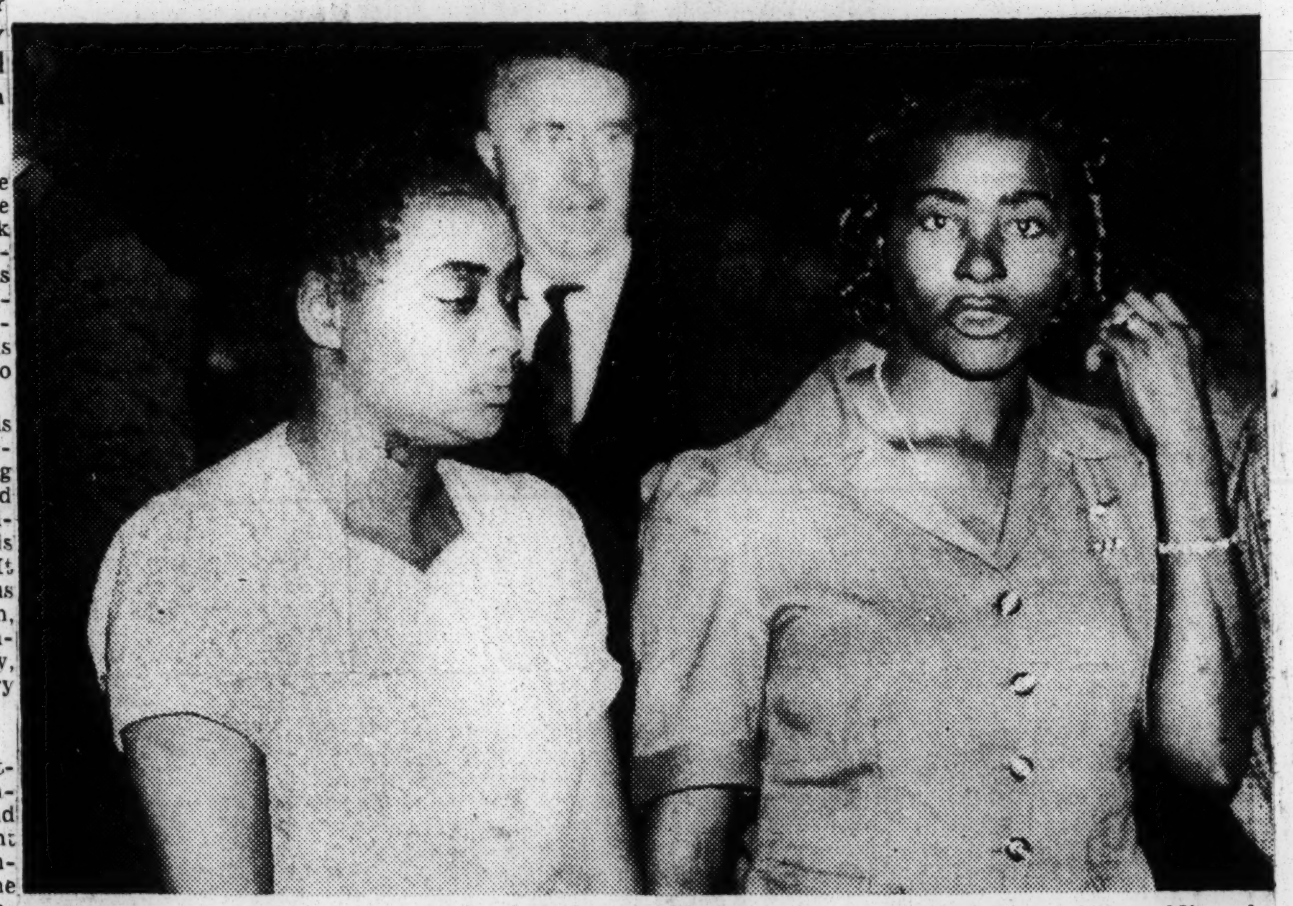
EDUCATION
Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J. (Fordham)
Nocholas Murray Butler (Columbia)
Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson (Howard)

LABOR
William Green (A. F. of L.)
Philip Murray (C.I.O.)
Anna M. Rosenberg (W.M.C.)

PHILANTHROPY
John A. Coleman
Mrs. Joseph M. Proskauer
John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

PRESS
Colonel R. R. McCormick (Chicago Tribune)
Roy W. Howard (Scripps-Howard)
Marshall Field (PM)

Saw Start of Harlem Riot



MARGY POLITE (left), the first woman implicated, and Mrs. Florine Roberts, mother of the soldier who was shot by a policeman, are shown in Felony Court in Harlem. Pvt. Robert Bandy, Negro M. P., was shot when he interferred with the policeman who was questioning Margy Polite in a Harlem hotel.

I am sure that this group of public spirited citizens will make a comprehensive and sympathetic study of the related problems affecting the Negro population of our Country and will promptly suggest a constructive and practical solution of the whole question.

MARTIN J. KENNEDY,
Member of Congress.

'Hoodlums Didn't Start Riots; 'Twas Jim Crow'

Sir: The Harlem riot was the direct result of the American system of discrimination, segregation and police brutality against the Negro people. This, rather than hoodlumism, is what we must call attention to. It may be idle to spend precious time and the taxpayers' money searching out the technical guilt of this or that person. It serves no purpose to stress that a disorderly woman was being arrested, that a soldier tried to prevent a policeman from apprehending her and was dutifully shot by this policeman. It serves less purpose to point out that this soldier was wounded and not killed. Much is made of false rumors, agitators, etc. What is not said is that what agitated the people was in accord with their general experience. Police brutality is common in Harlem and the shooting of Negro soldiers in the North as well as the South is not uncommon.

Recalls '35 Riot

In 1935, Harlem rioted because it thought a child had been killed by a policeman. In 1943, Harlem rioted again because it believed a soldier had been killed by a policeman. Is there no common thread here? The incident which precipitates a riot is not the cause of a riot. Rather, one must look for such causes in a long chain of historical events and in a social milieu. Beaumont, Mobile, Los Angeles and Detroit all add up to Harlem. Let the differences between these other riots and Harlem be made. Their causes are the same.

The people who ran into the streets of Harlem on Sunday evening, August 1st, were not all hoodlums. Among them were many good people fed up to the core with the cheating and robbery of the Harlem storekeepers, the laxity and inefficiency of the O. P. A., discrimination in employment, discrimination in the Army, lack of recreational facilities and the hypocrisy of the ruling group who do these things while ostensibly waging a war for democracy.

Defense Fund Needed

A defense fund to ensure a fair trial for the prisoners should be raised and a city-wide committee of representative citizens, Negro and white, should be set up to hold public hearings on the status of the Negro in New York. This committee should issue its findings with recommendations. The U. S. Government should have representation on this committee and the work of this committee should be the beginning of a serious effort to break down jimcrow in America.

The policeman's club cannot bor. You have littered your streets with the wreckage of violence and clean up Harlem. Harlem will be clean only when America itself is pillage.

AUG 14 1943

Don't Blame All

Why did you do it? Perhaps you'll never know. But you should feel ashamed. Recent events, especially since Pearl Harbor, may have embittered your Decent, law abiding Harlemites nerves. The shameful employment discrimination, hatred, drunken, the criminal element. have frayed your point. Em-demur: It was the hoodlums, the cher cities, eye-Don't blame all Harlem for the ps of furloughing Very well, it is all right to ask for f prejudice in the crime of the relative few. nd friends may reason, but the masses will not judge you with reason. They never

—Wilfred H. Kerr, Bklyn.

'Hoodlumism, Started Disturbances'—Reader

AUG 14 1943

Sir: Shame, Harlem, shame! You have split the blood of your neighbors on the lips of your streets. You have littered your streets with the wreckage of violence and have outraged you.

do. So the shame is that of all nonetheless.

You have got to become conscious of yourself as a group. You have got to learn to show disapproval of those who bring disgrace upon you. This is the logical first step in the fight for justice and fair-play. You have got to help them evaluate the far-reaching economic, political and social causes that brought them to what happened on Sunday, August 1st. You have got to unite to eliminate those causes, but in the realistic, the useful way.

Self-pity, frantic wailing and gnashing of teeth, making allowances because you have reason to believe the cards are stacked against you will not do the trick. Character and intelligence will. The people who went beserk on Sunday night were not respecting you, were not concerned with the sancitity and security of your home, of your community and theirs.

Childish Act

They were bitter, little-souled, unthinking, wretched, like the whites pictured by the newspapers in the Detroit rioting. The analytically minded may say they were letting off steam, driven to it by the many insults and wrongs, real and otherwise, that the ugly tides of this war have poured into the Negro sub-conscious mind. No unoffending white persons were attacked But even so, it was a stupid, childish, undisciplined, misguided way to let off steam. The storekeepers whose shops were despoiled, and many of them were colored, had no part in the newspaper smears, the discrimination in the beatings and [illegible] Beaumont, Mobile, De[illegible]

In destroying the property and stealing the goods of the merchants, these reasonless, benighted bands of marauders took a dirty leaf from the depraved book of the lynchocrats. They succumbed readily to the very weakness and evil in human nature that Negroes cry out against. They stabbed themselves in the back disgracefully.

We who are strong must bolster the infimities of the weak, just as the strong among the whites do. We must activate every agency in our community in the cause of a new and hygienic attitude to the trying problems which are not of our making — our newspapers, churches, welfare, fraternal, political and social organizations of one accord.

The time for being frantic is past. The accustomed attitude toward our problems is no good. We are just so many reeds shaken by the winds of pernicious adversity. Such unreflective behavior only makes misery and endless chain.

Don't Work for Enemy

The Axis and their American co-workers, witting and unwitting, have sown cruel seeds to race hate in this country. They are doing all in their evil power to provoke the Negro to disgraceful acts such as [illegible] of August 1st. They want to [illegible] their line to white Americans [illegible] Their aim [illegible] for an example . . . The small [illegible] that happened in Harlem, Sunday, August 1, 1943. One Negro soldier was shot in the back. Why? Because of jealousy. Why should a citizen police shoot a soldier, when there are M. P.'s to take care of all soldiers. I know it is a prejudice they feel towards them. But even at that, Negro soldiers are fighting for this country too. Why shouldn't we, the Negroes, carry arms. We don't have any change for protection. Any police will shoot us down as if we are dogs. Never let a white man pat you on the back and tell you that he is your friend.

—B. W.

That Wasn't A Riot; 'Twas Mass Stealing'

Sir: The occurrence that happened Sunday night was not a riot. It was a bunch of illiterates doing nothing but mass stealing from their own race. They did not hurt anyone but the Negro. Stealing clothes from tailor shops and pawn shops that have nothing but colored patronage. The Negro is the one that suffered mostly. They have taken personable belongings that will take some of us Negroes a long, long time to replace. They put over a thousand Negro men and women out of work.

We, that live in Harlem, could not find milk for our babies to drink. Those of us that had nothing to eat in the house, could not get what we wanted to eat. A friend of mine could not get her prescription refilled because they looted and destroyed the drug store where it had been filled before. A great many of grocery stores, which we pay at the grocery stores, whic hwe pay at the end of the week or every two weeks. Well, a great many Negroes are out of luck if they have not the cash on hand now. We, and I mean all of us have brains and hte sense of thinking, why not use them.

Two Sides

There are two sides to every question; think and reason things out before we jump to conclusions. Don't be too quick to commit crimes that will hurt all of us in quite a few ways. I do not know how the incident happened, but I do not think that any man in uniform should be shot. But, if the officer was performing his duty; then the soldier had nothing to do but stay in his place.

Sometimes, men in uniform take advantage of the uniform. We are all proud of our fighting men at all times, but we want them to be gentlemen and proud of themselves. We are all looking forward for justice, but don't let's take the law into our own hands and hurt our fellowmen in so many ways. We have outstanding people who are fighting for our rights, they won't let us down. They will investigate this matter thoroughly. In case and I hope [illegible] ever will have, we [illegible] ent, let's not go breaking windows and looting. Let's sit and think and reason things out. Our outstanding race people are working hard in every respect for us, don't let them down!!!

F. L.

As One Reader Thinks About Police, Prejudice

Sir: As Negroes, we have very little protection in the United States [illegible]

Loves His Race, But Is A Little Ashamed

Sir: Here's a letter sent to a soldier friend:

Dear Bob:

I know [illegible] are looking anxiously for this [illegible], for I [illegible] the horrible news has reached you about the riot. And I know you are a bit worried about me, knowing I love my race so. Well, Bob, I do, but somehow I was a bit ashamed last night. Oh, I know Bob, they meant well. We all have loved ones in the Army and every brown U. S. uniform reminds us of them. And I guess to see one shot in the back was quite hard to take.

I was wondering Bob what would have happened if the lynching in Southern States had been given more consideration?

You will no doubt ask me, why I was ashamed. Well . . . I saw the poor mothers and wives of soldiers crying in front of pawn shops. Their soldiers clothes and cherished souvenirs were gone. Don't say they had no business in the shop, for you know, many of these wives and mothers are on war jobs and can't be home to see they are safe. And again Bob, Harlem has greater expenses than any other district in New Yo[illegible]

Watched It

As I watched the grocery stores being looted, I knew then that Harlem had been hungry for a long time. I think the officers on duty knew this, too, for some people were eating on the street.

Gosh Bob, I can imagine what the hungry German people would have done. One thing we are proud of, it was not a race riot. We are still friends with our white brothers, "I hope."

The following day, we could not get ice. This showed we needed more Negro business in Harlem before destroying any.

Very few of our people can afford a business. So we are greatly handicapped if trouble should start.

Well, Bob, our family was safe. Little Bobby and Carrie never knew it happened. After a day at hard play in the cool park, they slept through it all.

I hope they never fight again. If there will be disagreement between races, I hope they fight it out with fists, which is a fair true fight. Then they can shake hands and declare the winner afterwards. Bob, don't we all know that "All Men Are Created Equal."

Oh say, Bob, aren't we proud we voted for LaGuardia.

—M.

In The Nation

Times New York, N. Y.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt Can Help

AUG 3 1943

By ARTHUR KROCK

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—When two groups of different ethnical origins seek out each other and come together in violence, that, strictly speaking, is a race riot. It is race riot whether one group invades the neighborhoods populated by the other or both go out for trouble. By this definition, the Sunday disturbances in Harlem were not—as Mayor La Guardia has said—"race riots."

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But, in the opinion of officials and investigators here, the seeds of race riots were in all the recent disorders; these seeds have not been extirpated; they abound in other civic soils throughout the United States; and the condition is one of deep and troubling importance, especially in time of war. While these officials and investigators hope that quick and forceful action by municipal and military authorities will hold the disorders to a minimum, they do not question that the outbreaks are outward signs of an inward sociological and economic sickness in this country which will require the wisest of post-war solutions.

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For various reasons many Negroes in this country are more restless and dissatisfied than ever before, according to reports that have come to Washington, and more than before are responding to the urgings of hot-heads and outlaws among them to try to get rapidly and by force improvements in their condition which politicians long have promised them, and something extra beside. Some investigators believe that Axis propaganda has had a part in accelerating this state of mind. But not a very important one. What is held to have disposed to violent assertions many citizens, both Negro and white, who have lived near each other peacefully for a number of years, are these factors:

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Sources of Trouble

Negroes, being American citizens like any others, have been requisitioned for military service in the defense of the country. In this service they have lived where no such social exclusions are practiced against them as in most parts of the United States; and, as soldiers and sailors, they have enjoyed living conditions superior to those which they have been able to obtain out of their share of the national economy. These experiences have aroused feelings which, transmitted to their families and friends at home, have brought about an urge for more rapid improvement in their way of life at home than is practical or feasible.

Ever since Negroes got the vote, and began to live in concentrations in the Northeast and the Middle West that has given them a political balance of power, many politicians have sought their suffrage by making promises they did not intend to, and were unable to, fulfill. Instead of pledging themselves to help assure that Negroes should receive, as rightfully they should, as good facilities in living, education, employment and recreation as the white majority, these politicians have pandered to those colored leaders—often demagogues themselves — who demanded that all such facilities should be mixed and shared. Since in most parts of the United States the majority is unalterably opposed to this, Negroes have found the promises hollow, and this fact has been used to stir up resentment among them.

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Negro leaders like Booker T. Washington and the late Dr. Carver, whose counsel was that their people should recognize the facts of nature and prefer to exist socially apart—so long as their existence was on an equitable economic and political plane—have been ridiculed as "Uncle Toms" by the political demagogues of both colors. This has made poisonous and explosive doctrine among a people so lately free from bondage, despite the fact that American Negroes have made progress in those eighty years never exceeded by a race so long and cruelly oppressed.

Assurances Needed

Negroes in this state of mind are likely to become as resentful over being denied equal patronage privileges with whites in hotels, restaurants and theatres as over denials of fundamental rights. It is reported here that there is unrest also (1) among whites who say that draft boards are more lenient in exempting Negroes; (2) among the latter who say that their men in the services are held to menial and non-combatant tasks by the prejudice of white officers, who in return say that many Negro troops do not measure up to combat qualifications.

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Whatever the facts as to this, it is certain that the restlessness is deep. One of the most important post-war tasks of representative white citizens will be to adjust the condition by the light of the lamps of justice, common sense and the general welfare. Meantime some assurances (which can surely be redeemed) should be given that will enable the best Negro leaders to exert an influence that is greatly

[*This column will be suspended for a part of August while Arthur Krock is absent from Washington.*]

New York World-Telegram

Firemen Also Deserve Credit f[illegible]

By Vora B. Durand.

Our wonderful firemen did a splendid work and were given just credit. Why are our wonderful firemen not mentioned in the Harlem riot? They were on duty 16 hours and no mention is made of them. Our policemen did wonderful work also and were given just credit.

Brooklyn.

New York

Harlem This Afternoon—and This Morning

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.



Still restless, this afternoon—W. 123rd St.



One of many cars that were wrecked during the disorder.

Photos by Acme Newspictures.

Curfew Set For Harlem As Six Die

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Disorders Spread Over Main Avenues; 125th St. Area Hard Hit

Arrests Reach 359 As Bands of Youths Attack Policemen

Racial Strife Denied As Disorder Cause

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Police and municipal officials were generally agreed today that the disturbances in Harlem were not the outgrowth of racial strife.

No white gangs appeared in Harlem during the night, and there were no reports of sizable attacks by white groups on Negro groups or vice versa. Many residents of Harlem said it was "a children's war."

With 6000 policemen patrolling Harlem after a night of street fighting, shootings, stabbings and lootings unparalleled in the city's recent history, Mayor La Guardia today took steps to prevent a recurrence of the disturbance by imposing a 10:30 p. m. curfew on the community for tonight.

At the same time he announced that 1500 persons, mostly Negro volunteers, would patrol Harlem—armed with nightsticks—with the police tonight to prevent further outbreaks.

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"We will feel our way along," the Mayor said.

Up since 7:30 a. m. yesterday, he said he would stay on the job as long as necessary.

Bus Traffic Suspended.

If there is any disorder, stealing or looting tonight, the Mayor said, "people will be dealt with severely."

He said that the emergency order halting vehicular traffic—except for trolleys and food trucks—and shutting down liquor stores would be enforced rigidly tonight. There will be no busses through Harlem tonight.

By midafternoon, workmen were busily boarding up nearly every store in 125th St. from Lexington to Eighth Aves., as a precaution against further damage tonight.

Further weight was lent to the ban on liquor sales when John F. O'Connell, chairman of the State Liquor Authority, said the board had forbidden sale of all liquor, wine or beer in Harlem until further notice. Delivery of such products to retailers also was banned.

Ban Covers 70 Blocks.

The ban covers an area of 70 blocks—from 100th St. on the south to 170th St. on the north, bounded on the west by the North River and the east by the Harlem and East Rivers. Governor Dewey, who is in New York, was reported to have asked strict enforcement of the ban.

The area covered by the ban included many parts of the city which are not Harlem. The entire Columbia University area, for instance, will be without liquor, while several upper class residential sections, alongside Riverside Drive and Morningside Heights, also fall under the ban. The Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center area is included.

At a special press conference late this afternoon Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine announced that dimout restrictions would be suspended throughout Harlem tonight, and all lights would be shown. He added that there was no need to declare martial law, that the 2500 patrolmen and detectives drawn from six precincts had the situation well in hand. The outbreak was not a race riot but plain hoodlumism, the Commissioner said.

Sparked by a comparatively minor incident, in which a Negro soldier tried to interfere with a patrolman arresting an alleged disorderly woman, the brawling lasted all night and past the hours of dawn. Police gave out these figures:

Killed: 6.

Injured: 157 civilians, 44 policemen.

Arrested: 359.

By afternoon, with the law clamped down over the entire area, Harlem was quiet—littered with unbelievable amounts of debris, but quiet. Mayor La Guardia, announcing that "All's clear now," returned to the section about 11:30 a. m., along with Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Terry, head of the Second Division Command.

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General Offers to Help.

General Terry said he had come to offer any assistance he might lend. He added, however, that "this is strictly a civilian job." He, the Mayor, a number of Negro civic leaders and Maj. Samuel J. Battle, Negro member of the City Patrol Corps, went into a conference at the W. 123rd St. station about noon.

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An aftermath, meanwhile, was the crowded condition of the city's courts. Hundreds of defendants

poured into courtrooms throughout the city, and Chief Magistrate Henry H. Curran announced that this afternoon for the first time in history a Part III of Felony Court would be opened.

"And we'll create a Part IV if necessary," he added.

However, the magistrates in Parts I and II moved the cases along so swiftly—having disposed of 300 by 3 p. m.—that Magistrate Curran finally decided not to open Parts III or IV. The cases were handled in routine order and with assembly-line precision. Fifty of the first 300 defendants were women.

Most of the defendants were held in $1000 bail for examination or grand jury action. Bail of $10,000 each, however, was set for Margie Polite, 35, of 368 W. 127th St., and Mrs. Florine Roberts of Middletown, Conn., who were alleged to have figured in the incident that touched off the disorder.

"Your name looks to me like Polite," Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio said, "and it looks to me as though you precipitated the whole thing. That isn't polite by any means."

Propaganda Is Suspected.

standable," said Magistrate Aurelio after hearing the first 40 cases. "As far back as I can remember, residents of Harlem, made up of all races, creeds and color, have lived in peace and harmony."

One record batch of 25 Negroes was arraigned all at once on a single charge. Meanwhile they were still booking defendants at various stations throughout the area. In Harlem Court several 30-day sentences were passed out along with one 90-day term, but most of the cases were held over until a later date.

The burglary and looting that followed the early fights were the outstanding events. Bands of Negro youths, numbering from 40 to 50, swarmed into nearly every store within a 10-block area, shattering windows, rushing inside and stuffing their arms with clothes, drugs, food—anything on which they could lay their hands.

Mayor La Guardia spent the night in Harlem, working, worrying and talking in vain to the crowds. Finally, at 7:45, he went on the air over seven radio stations and both appealed to and warned Harlem that the demonstrations must stop.

"Shame has come to our fair city," he said, "and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens in the Harlem district.

False Rumor Blamed.

"It all started in an unfortunate incident at the Hotel Braddock. As you remember, the police had trouble with that hotel before. False rumors started all of a sudden and disturbances took place in various parts of Harlem."

He said that the big problem this morning would be getting food into Harlem, since so many food stores were ruined by the crowds. There was no official estimate of property damage, but it was considerable.

"Let me say emphatically," the Mayor concluded, "that we will have no disorder. Harlem, I appeal to you for co-operation. To the hoodlums: No monkey business.

It was the second broadcast made by the Mayor in eight hours. Shortly before 1 a. m. he made a 15-minute address in which he pleaded with Harlem's residents to get off the streets, lest they "have serious trouble."

Policemen, running into knots of Negroes who stabbed and beat and shot them, went around with guns drawn during the hectic night. Typical of the events was an incident at 138th St. and Eighth Ave., where three detectives arrested a group of men who had just looted a clothing store.

Four Negro soldiers stepped up and threatened to harm the detectives if they didn't let the Negro prisoners go free. The detectives replied by pulling their service revolvers and ordering the soldiers away. The soldiers drew back.

At 6:30 Detective Lewis of the 28th Precinct saw three men leaving a hat store at 126th St. and Eighth Ave., after, it was alleged, they had looted it. When they refused to stop at his call he shot all three. They gave their names as:

Herbert Washington, 20, Negro, of 265 W. 129th St., shot in the abdomen; James Dunn, 23, Negro, of 355 Convent Ave., shot in the abdomen, and James Eagle, 18, Negro, of 115 W. 122nd St., shot in the right leg.

So many prisoners were seized during the night that hundreds of them were taken to the Squadron A Armory at 94th St. and Park Ave. There, exhausted, many slumped to the floor and slept after they had been booked.

The disorders were still going on at 9 a. m. Just about that time, a group descended on a car parked in Lenox Ave. between 136th and 137th Sts., dumped it over and set it afire. Firemen finally extinguished the blaze, after considerable damage had been done.

Start of the Trouble.

As in most such outbursts, a single incident touched off the fighting that was to follow.

At 7:30 o'clock last night, Patrolman James Collins of the W. 135th St. station decided that one Margie Polite, 33, Negro, of 368 W. 127th St., was using language that was too boisterous and too loud, in the Hotel Braddock, 272 W. 126th St.



Pfl. Collins.
He tried to arrest her on a disorderly conduct charge. Suddenly swiftly, a crowd materialized. One of the crowd, Pvt. Robert Bandy, a Negro M. P. attached to the 730th Regiment in Jersey City, allegedly grabbed Patrolman Collins' nightstick and whacked the officer over the head.

Then Private Bandy raced off—but Patrolman Collins drew his revolver and shot him in the back. The soldier dropped and the patrolman immediately arrested him for felonious assault and sent him off to Sydenham Hospital.

3000 Rush to Hospital.

That was the match to the fuse, however. Three thousand persons immediately swept over to Sydenham, screaming and yelling, and while police managed to disperse this crowd others appeared throughout the length and breadth of Harlem. Private Bandy, meanwhile, was taken from Sydenham to Bellevue's prison ward, where his condition is good.

Once under way, the brawling seemed unstoppable. Negro civic leaders toured Harlem in trucks with loudspeaker systems, imploring their neighbors to desist, but their pleas were unneeded. The Mayor made several appeals, but these, too, were ineffectual.

The entire sprawling Negro community was aroused, but it was Eighth Ave. from 125th to 135th Sts. which appeared hit the hardest. One policeman said that in this 10-block area, not one store appeared to escape looting.

One of the dead men, Michael Young, 43, a Negro, of 271 W. 113th St., was found in the doorway of a pawnshop at 2117 Eighth Ave., and he, apparently, was the man shot by Detective Hyman Weinstein of the Missing Persons Bureau when the detcetive and a squad of other policemen burst in on 50 looters at that shop.

Most of the looters, Detective Weinstein said, ran out, but eight of them stayed inside.

Detective Fires Twice.

"I ordered them out and told them to raise their hands," he said. "One came out with his hands up; the rest of them grouped at the door. This man a little to the rear seemed to be fumbling with his hip pocket. I ordered him to raise his hands again.

"He still fumbled. I fired a shot. He still didn't raise his hands, so I fired again. He fell where he stood."

Detective Weinstein didn't know at the time that Young had been killed; he said he did not find this out until later. Patrolman John Maire of the E. 126th St. found Young's body in the doorway a few minutes after the shooting.

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Killed Leaving a Store.

Another of those killed, Frank Stoner, 40, a Negro whose address was not given, was shot by Patrolman William L. Clements as he left a luggage store at 130 W. 125th St. with a suitcase.

Patrolman Clements ordered the Negro to drop the suitcase, which the latter did, but drew a 6-inch pen knife at the same time, according to police. Patrolman Clements then opened fire.

A third man killed was Sterling Stokes, 20, Negro, of Savannah, Ga., and the manner in which he died wasn't ascertained immediately. He was found at Seventh Ave. and 122nd St. about 2:30 a. m., a gunshot wound in his right thigh. Taken to Bellevue Hospital, he died soon after.

The fighting still was widespread shortly before 8 a. m., and it was just five minutes before the hour that the death toll rose to four later rising to six. Vincent Randolph, 35, a Negro whose address was not given, was seen running away from a grocery into which he was alleged to have entered, and Patrolman Wallace of the W. 135th St. Station shot and killed him.

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One Victim Killed in Bar.

The fifth and sixth victims were an unidentified Negro who died of a gunshot wound in Harlem Hospital shortly after 10 a. m. and Neil Lucas, address not known who was shot and fatally injured at 4:40 a. m. in the Morningside Bar and Grill, 2118 Eighth Ave.

The bartender of the grill, Justice Thornsberry of 211 W. 115th St., was charged by police with having shot Lucas after the latter and George Washington, 54, a Negro, of 306 W. 114th St., were alleged to have kicked in both windows. Thornsberry was picked up on a homicide charge.

Capt. Joseph Reit of the E. 104th St. station said that all prisoners arrested during the emergency from now on would be booked at the armory.

Warns Against Mob Attacks.

"Some of the mobs might get foolish and try to storm a Harlem station house," he said. "If they do, it will be too bad."

A special emergency squad call was made to get five prisoners out of a pawnshop at 2436 Eighth Ave. Policemen who made the arrests heard the prisoners yell to the crowd outside: "Go home and get guns and get us out of here," and sent in the hurry call.

"Things are still very hot," one police official said in the early afternoon. He declared that he would not be surprised to see nightfall bring a repetition of the fighting.

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First Lady Asks Coolness.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, visiting Hunter College, the Bronx, to review a parade of Waves, said after glancing over a newspaper story about the disorders:

"I can only hope that people will keep their heads and won't magnify it, and will realize that in these times everybody's nerves are stretched."

She said she hoped that "people who can control it will keep their heads and act in a kindly way."

Youths Beat Policemen.

Bands of young Negroes marched through Harlem, and many policemen were beaten by them. One such victim was Mounted Patrolman Charles Weigand of Troop D, who was torn from his horse at 125th St. and St. Nicholas Ave., kicked and beaten. At Reconstruction Hospital his condition was said to be critical.

The police poured in from all five boroughs. Five thousand of them were uniformed men; the other thousand were detectives. They came from as far away as Ozone Park in Queens, E. 22nd St. in Manhattan, and Herbert St. in Brooklyn.

Those men reporting for duty after 8 a. m. today were ordered by Commissioner Valentine to wear their helmets, as protection against missiles. The Commissioner gave another order, for all patrolman to wear their uniforms at all times until the emergency was ended.

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Patrolman Meyer Berkman of the Clinton St. station, one of those on special duty, was shot, at Lenox Ave. and 140th St. At Harlem Hospital his condition was declared serious. Captain Walter Harding of the W. 123rd St. station was struck by a bottle thrown from a roof at 126th St. and Lenox Ave. about 3 a. m., while Fireman James J. McKeon of Engine Co. 58 was hit by a shower of bricks a block away.

Added to the confusion was a wave of fire alarms, 22 of which were sounded between 11:40 p. m. and 4 a. m. During one five-minute period, false alarms rang at the rate of one a minute, it was reported. There were 32 fires, most of them small, during the night.

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Soon after 2 a. m. Dr. John H. Johnson, a police chaplain and rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church at 122nd St. and Lenox Ave., and Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, began touring the area in a loud-speaker truck, appealing to the crowds to go home.

The Mayor's third broadcast was made from his offices in City Hall, shortly before 10 a. m. He said it was "only quick action of police that saved many lives there last night," and appealed once more to everyone to help maintain order.

"The situation is under control," the Mayor said. "I want to make it clear that this is not a race riot.

"There was no need for all this. It was just hoodlums, people with criminal intent, stealing from their own group and injuring their people."

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A first batch of 92 men and women, all Negroes, appeared in the lineup at Police Headquarters, charged with burglary, receiving stolen property, unlawful entry and many other offenses.

In the group were a soldier and

Americans to reject all rumors which may lead to similar outbreaks elsewhere.

"Rumor has [illegible] people into [illegible] responsible acts, which on the morrow they will feel deeply ashamed. This damage must go no further," Father Haas said.

"Patriotic Americans will scorn the Harlem riots," J. Haas, chairman to pass on rumors and will challenge those who repeat them.

Father Francis J. Haas, chairman of the Fair Employment Practices Committee today called on patriotic

"Those who love their country will extend every effort to quiet rumors in New York and elsewhere."

Scores Rumor Mongers

Father Haas

(By Wide World Photo, Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—In a statement on the Harlem riots, Father Francis J. Haas, chairman of the Fair Employment Practices Committee today called on patriotic Americans to reject all rumors which may lead to similar outbreaks elsewhere.

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"All rumors in New York and elsewhere will extend every effort to quiet

61-1943

New York

New York Is All Boarded Up After Riot; It Will Take Weeks to Repair and Restock Looted Stores; Colored and White Suffer

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.



Postal Telegraph, Harlem branch, windows were smashed, too. To keep glass from falling on passing pedestrians, managers taped windows up as shown above. Service was not interrupted.



A. Philip Randolph's National March on Washington movement headquarters on Seventh Avenue both plate glass windows broken; so was the drug store next door. Drug stores did a thriving business Tuesday.

Harlem Lights Gleam As Dimout Is Lifted

AUG 3 1943

West Harlem was the brightest spot in New York last night as the Army lifted the dimout regulation in that area to aid in preventing further disorder. The Army acted at the request of Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia, but made it clear that the partial suspension of the dimout restrictions was "for a very limited time only."

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The area exempted by the Army was defined as "from 110th Street to 165th Street between Fifth Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue." The dimout rules are unchanged for all other parts of the city.

It was indicated also that due to the conditions in Harlem the "trying and difficult air raid drill promised by the Mayor for the very near future would be postponed.

caused death of five Negroes and injuries to 261 persons in the teeming Negro neighborhood.

Police Capt. Walter C. Harding, who was hit on the head with a brick during the disorders, said the number of policemen patrolling Harlem had been reduced considerably; that food stores had replenished their stocks and traffic as well as business appeared normal.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

LIQUOR SHOPS OPEN AS HARLEM QUIETS

NEW YORK, Aug. 5—(AP)—Liquor shops and taverns were allowed to open in Harlem Thursday for the first time since rioting of last Sunday night AUG 6 1943 Monday morning



Here's loot stored in the 123rd Street police station: jewelry, furs, carpets, corsets, clothes, hats; even radios. Claims totaling $100,000 have been filed at the police station by 155 Harlem merchants.



James W. Foster, left, bartender, and Lloyd Dickens, a realtor, who were among hundreds of volunteer patrolman. (See other pictures on page 8).

The Crowd Has Its Joke



Stripped mannequins whose clothing was ungraciously swept off them by Harlem looters during riots, were a common sight in Harlem. The denuded doll stands before a looted store as a disinterested street cleaner finishes sweeping bits of broken glass and debris from the scene.

INQUIRY ON HARLEM BY CITY ADVOCATED

New York Times

National Republican Club Urges Query on Causes of Riot

New York, N. Y.

AUG 8 1943

The National Republican Club, of which Thomas J. Cu[illegible] is president, urged yesterday an immediate investigation by city authorities of the facts behind the riots in Harlem last week in which five Negroes were killed. Declaring that the riots had focused attention on discrimination against minorities, the statement said:

"The uprising involves fundamental problems existing in Harlem and other colored sections everywhere which may be due to discrimination in employment, social welfare, social planning and other matters, including violations of civil liberties.

"Charges are made that Harlem lacks adequate welfare and recreational facilities, that its housing problems have not been adequately and that improvements made in other sections of our city have been omitted from Harlem."

Offering the services of the club's city affairs committee, of which Abraham N. Davis is chairman, to aid the city administration, the club approved the appointment by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of committee of the State War Council, headed by Dr. Alvin Johnson, to study discrimination against minorities.

All Harlem Stores Boarded Up After Riot



This section of 125th Street shows how merchants boarded up their places after plate glass was shattered. There was not a whole plate glass on 125th Street from river to river.

ROGERS SAYS

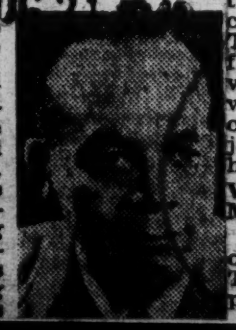
Sermonizing Will Not Do; The Cause of Rioting Must Be Given Close Study

BY J. A. ROGERS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
AUG 21 1943

HAS the Negro press permitted the charge of Westbrook Pegler that it is inciting Negroes to get under its skin? Its editorials, the week of the Harlem outbreak were, on the whole, either outright in condemnation or disappointing. On the other hand certain white papers, while not condoning the "rioters," placed the emphasis on the condition that caused the outbreak.

One of these was the New York Times, which pointed out that "behind the situation were generations of history of which the white man as well as the Negro was a victim," and that "bad and costly housing . . . failure to give equal opportunities, corrupt the weak and unstable among the Negro population just as they do among other varieties of population."





Mr. Rogers

PM, owned by Marshall Field, white multi-millionaire, devoted several pages of three issues to attacking Harlem evils — and especially Arthur Krock, New York Times columnist, for his article. As for the radio commentators, some were very good. The best I heard was Leo Cherne, who uttered one of the most ring[illegible] attacks on injustice to the N[illegible] have heard.

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WHITE PRESS MAY TAKE LEAD

I heard one educated Negro saying of PM: "I never miss a copy. That's my Bible." Several others present agreed with him. I do again for following his advice.

hope that the Negro press is not going to let the white press take from it the lead in defending Negroes against racial injustice.

AS for me, I have long since ceased taking Pegler seriously. He means well; he is sincere; but he is awfully muddled. For instance, he attacked Negroes in two articles, then seeing the error of his ways, he utters a terrific blast in their favor, which is extensively endorsed by Negroes. He says, among other things: **"If I were a Negro, I would live in constant fury and probably batter myself to death against the bars inclosing my condition."** Now that's precisely what the Harlem Negroes did. But he's attacking Negroes

As for the Negroes involved in the Harlem "riot," no right-thinking person can endorse them in principle. But the better-fed, better-housed, better-salaried Negroes should try to understand their case. The latter should not make the mistake the house-Negroes of antebellum days did about the field-Negroes. History has proved the field-Negroes, as Nat Turner and his companions, right. I'm sure the verdict on the Harlem revolt of 1943 will be the same.

ALREADY the Office of Price Administration has, in a way, recognized this. Two days after the outbreak, it set up a special office in Harlem with 10 investigators to stop cheating in the Harlem stores. For the OPA to have acted so quickly, it must have known of this condition. But why did it have to wait until people were killed and so much damage done?

EXCERPTS FROM 1935 RIOT REPORT

AUG 21 1943

Other ways, too, must be devised to calm the underprivileged Negroes. Sermonizing them through the Negro press not only is a waste of time, but irritates the well-behaved Negroes. Perhaps 60 per cent of Negroes do not read a Negro newspaper, including this type, which, on the whole, regards the present setup of Negro leaders as stooges—as the field-Negroes regarded the house-Negroes. Attacking such Negroes in the Negro press in the hope of converting them is like the preacher who thunders against non-churchgoers to those of his audience present instead of going directly to the non-churchgoers themselves.

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AS regards the Harlem outbreak, Arthur Garfield Hayes, noted white lawyer and author, who was on the committee investigating the 1935 riot, gives in the New York Times of August 6, excerpts from the 1935 report, which was suppressed. Some of these excerpts are:

". . . the insecurity of the individual in Harlem against police aggression is in our judgment one of the most potent causes of the existing hostility to authority. Various witnesses testified as to illegal searches of their persons and property by the police . . ."

The report continued:

"We are reluctantly compelled to believe that the instances cited above [illegible] exceptional, and that nothing is needed in Harlem more than a return by the police to the attitude that the first function of a police officer is to win the goodwill of those among whom he is stationed by unfailing courtesy and kindliness. . . . Above all, every officer stationed in Harlem should be instructed that the rights of Negroes, now flouted, are as much to be respected by the police as are those of more fortunate citizens who reside on Fifth or Park avenues.

"We think that the police should be made to realize primarily that they are the servants of the public, whether white or colored, and that they themselves under no circumstances whatever, have the right to violate the laws they are sworn to uphold. They must be taught that their right to make arrests is strictly limited by law, and that the necessity of obtaining warrants both for arrests and searches applies to them and to all citizens."

RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IGNORED

AUG 21 1943

Mr. Hayes adds:

"Presumably the Mayor appointed our committee with some purpose. So far as I know, recommendations along the above lines were ignored.

"Of course, conditions in Harlem, the wretched housing, unduly high rents, lack of recreation grounds, discrimination in industry against colored people, are largely responsible for an emotional situation which might at any time cause a flare-up. But in addition to this is a lack of proper treatment of the people by the police. Our report to Mayor LaGuardia ended:

"The present economic conditions may make difficult the carrying out of many recommendations concerning Harlem, but here is one problem that can be solved without the expenditure of money."

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Hoodlums Blamed For Harlem Riots

AUG 4 1943

New York Police Rings In Kluxers

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine disclosed today as Mayor F. H. La Guardia in several- turned to their homes today. Harlem residents in Manhattan's negro colony re- The curfew was obeyed. About 8,000 men in the New York State Guard of the metro- lifted, but La Guardia politan area, who had been held in readiness at their armories, re- apparently there had been no request for the restriction to be removed if law and order continued. He said "the matter is under investigation," and that he would be promised that the "danger spots" to-day, carpenters, the militia, but Gov. Thomas E. Dewey approved the mobilization repairs to several hundred stores, which were

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. — (U.P.) — Reports that Ku Klux Klan agents and out-of-town hoodlums had been sent to Harlem to provoke of rioting Sunday night and Monday when five persons were killed, about 500 injured and 500 arrested, all was quiet last night rioting are being investigated and a 10:30 p.m. curfew set by

61-1943

New York

HARLEM CITIZENS JOIN IN STOPPING OUTBREAK

Defender
Chicago, Ill.



Clarence Hines, New York buildings patrolman, mounted a horse to patrol Harlem with other Negro volunteers and break up the wave of rioting in the area.



Typical of the many Negro OCD workers who joined police in helping to quell the Harlem riot last week that cost six lives was this stalwart citizen armed with a club and sporting the bright OCD helmet.

RADIO 'SAVES DAY' DURING RECENT RIOTING IN HARLEM

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

AUG 14 1943

NEW YORK, Aug. 12—Among the many facilities which were utilized in quelling last week's rioting in Harlem, were the various radio stations throughout the city. The use of this medium of reaching the people to exhort that they stop in their sweep of violence, was given a great deal of credit by the daily papers. Not only did the stations make their facilities available for periodical talks by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, but also co-operated with him to the extent of explaining the happenings so as not to spread alarming throughout the rest of the city, and really have the disturbance develop into a race riot.

MAYOR IS HEARD

Mayor LaGuardia made his first broadcast at 1:05 a. m. over WOR which at the time had Cab Calloway broadcasting from the Park Central, which was felt to be a good time to catch the ears of a number of Harlemites. WJZ and WABC hooked in on this broadcast, while WNEW made a record-ing of the talk and rebroadcasting it at regular intervals. Later in the morning the mayor went on the air again, and again several times on Tuesday, after things had quieted down. Tuesday night prominent citizens toured the streets talking from a portable WNYC truck.

Although a couple of the Harlem theatres were closed, either voluntarily or by police order, the majority were open for business "bright and early" Monday morning. But the show in the street was bigger and held more interest for the curious who ventured out of their houses. None of the neighborhood theatres were damaged in any way, and none reported any disturbances inside.

Although many Broadway managers feared a sharp decrease in business because patrons who had to travel through Harlem might not come out, they found that the box-office suffered very little. Ir-

AUG 14 1943

AUG 14 1943

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Mob Outbreak Kills Six in Harlem Area

Hoodlumism, 'Not Race Riot,' Declares Mayor La Guardia.

AUG 3 1943

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Six Negroes were killed, 543 persons and more than 500 arrested in 16 hours of rioting in Harlem today. Wild smashing of shop windows and looting of stores owned by both Negroes and whites marked the disorders.

A 10:30 p. m. curfew was clamped down on the area, and the wartime dimout lifted in the nation's largest Negro neighborhood. Six thousand policemen continued to patrol streets and subway stations. Liquor stores were closed and motor traffic in Harlem virtually was at a standstill.

Mayor F. H. La Guardia ex-

How Trouble Started.

The disorders began at 7:30 last on their own initia-night when a policeman shot a Negro soldier who tried to interled were listed as Vin-fere with the arrest of a Negro olph, 35, and Stanleywoman in a hotel lobby. both of Savannah, Ga.; Police Commissioner Lewis J. er, no address; MichaelValentine said that 44 policemen New York; Neil Lucas,were injured in the disorders. and an unidentifiedHospitals treated 157 Harlem re-sidents.

ge to say, there was no ction. Groups of hood-

pressed a belief that "all's quiet now."

The mayor was joined by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist church and a member of the city council, in asserting that the outbreak was "not a race riot."

No Group Conflicts.

Mayor La Guardia said "this was not a race riot. There was no concerted action. There was no conflict between groups of our citizens acted on thetive."

What happened was thoughtless, criminal acts of hood-lums, reckless, irresponsible people-cent Randolph, four cityStokes, 20, both of Shaw, Miss., com-

A battalion of the New York Militia arrived today, headed by Brigadier General John J. Mangan, who said he was "just looking around." City officials later announced that a committee of 1,500 persons, most of them Negroes, would help patrol Harlem streets tonight.

Major General Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, surveyed the scene and said, "this is strictly a civilian job." He said he would not declare the area "out of bounds" for soldiers."

Commends Handling Of Harlem Rioting

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12—Commending Mayor LaGuardia and the New York police department for its efficient [redacted] in handling of the disorders in Harlem, George Marshall, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, last week urged the establishment of an interracial citizens' committee to aid the mayor in establishing and maintaining [redacted]. In his wire, Mr. Marshall p[redacted] the mayor Federal support [redacted]

New York Averts Riot; How About Jim-Crow?

The Worker New York, N. Y.

By ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

We who live in New York City had hoped and prayed that such disgraceful attacks on the Negro people never would occur in our city as happened in Detroit and Beaumont. Sunday, Aug. 1, there were disturbances in Harlem, our Negro community, but **it was not a race riot,** regardless of what inaccurate reports in the press throughout the country may say to the contrary.

As usual, the trouble began over a false rumor. A white policeman and a Negro soldier had an argument in a hotel lobby. Both men were injured, but not seriously. The Negro soldier was shot in the shoulder and taken to the hospital.



ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

Some time later a rumor spread throughout Harlem that a white policeman had killed a Negro soldier, in the presence of his mother. Violent outbreaks occurred, which took the form of smashing and looting stores, indiscriminately. **But there were no clashes between white and Negro citizens. Looting and larceny did not develop into wholesale violence, as could easily have happened if the situation were not handled correctly.**

We are all sorrowful and ashamed that in our great city in wartime, when peace and unity on the home front are imperative, conditions are so tense that a spark can light a conflagration of resentment and anger. The tragic results are five dead; several hundred injured; four hundred arrested—at least 375 of whom are youths of 'teen age, and claims against the city of property losses which may reach four or five million dollars.

But we are proud of our law abiding Negro residents of Harlem, who heeded the appeal of Negro leaders and the Mayor to keep off the streets and remain calm; we are proud of our many Negro air raid wardens, men and women, trade unionists and others who volunteered to help restore order in their own neighborhoods; we are proud of our Mayor, who had the good sense to enlist Harlem to help police itself, and of our police force, who used their heads instead of clubs and guns.

Used Heads, Not Clubs

Saloons were closed; traffic was detoured so that all curious spectators or provocative elements were barred from Harlem. There is universal praise, in Harlem and elsewhere, for the admirable conduct of our police force, during many difficult hours, quite different from Detroit's brutality.

Very special credit for taking hold of the situation should go to Dr. Max Yergan, chairman of the National Negro Congress, and Ferdinand Smith, vice-president of the National Maritime Union. It was a fortunate circumstance that they were attending a committee meeting that night at the office of the **People's Voice,** when the phone rang and an alert reader reported trouble breaking out in Harlem. The equally fortunate circumstance that Mayor LaGuardia was in the city and they were able to contact him almost immediately probably saved hundreds of lives.

They accompanied the Mayor to a radio station, to broadcast an appeal to the members of their race. At the risk of their lives, they traveled all night on police sound trucks, the length and breadth of Harlem, appealing to people to disperse They were accompanied by Walter White and other Negro leaders.

It is reported to me that Ferdinant Smith was able to get the attention of noisy groups when no one else could. **"The NMU—that's a good bunch—they fight for us,"** people would say, and heed his words. He went to Bellevue Hospital and had his picture taken with Robert Bandy, the wounded soldier, [redacted] was sitting up in bed. This proved conclusively that the soldier had not been killed, and helped ease the situation considerably. The storm passed, and we are all greatly relieved.

The Cause Remains

But what of the deep underlying causative factors to such outbursts? We need more Negro police in Harlem, to handle infractions of the law without the injection of racial feelings. We need more decent housing, recreation facilities for Harlem's youth, lower prices, jobs for Negro men and women on an equal basis.

Harlem is poor, unemployed, overcrowded, neglected. Her schools are a disgrace. Her children and youths roam the streets, for lack of places to go to.

But beyond all these just grievances, Jim Crow eats deeply into the proud spirit of the Negro people, especially as it is practiced in the armed forces. Discrimination and segregation against their sons in uniform and the insults and violence they have suffered, cause just resentment among the Negro people everywhere. That is why the rumor that a **Negro soldier** had been the victim in Harlem let loose such an outburst of pent-up anger.

Let us bury Jim Crow and treat our Negro citizens with justice and dignity. Let us abolish the causes of their anger and bitterness, and live in peace, side by side. This is the lesson of Harlem.

The Harlem Outbreak. World-Telegram

Mayor La Guardia, the police and state authorities did a highly commendable job in taking strict, prompt and efficient measures to restore order in Harlem following the disorders of Sunday night and yesterday. But neither the tragedy nor the disgrace of it can be minimized. After all, five persons were killed and about 200 injured. Property damage by the hoodlums and looters runs into several million dollars. There is something sinister about the whole thing. New York, N. Y.

Consider how the violence developed. A patrolman on duty at a hotel under police surveillance undertook to arrest a Negro woman for disorderly conduct. A Negro soldier seized the patrolman's nightstick, hit him over the head with it and knocked him down. When the assailant fled the patrolman shot him in the back and then arrested him for felonious assault.

Within a very brief time false reports of the shooting spread through Harlem, thousands of Negroes began to mill through the streets, screaming and yelling. Looters and young hoodlums began smashing doors and windows of shops and carrying off stock. When police appeared they were showered with missiles hurled from tenement roofs and windows.

There are important points to consider. First, there was no organized riot, race or otherwise. No leader or leader-group appeared with any alleged grievance to redress. There was no tangible motive for the outbreak. That's what makes it sinister.

We think there is something in the remark of Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio, after hearing the first 40 cases brought before him after the arrests in Harlem: "Of late, on the slightest provocation large numbers are

giving expression of some pentup feeling. It seems to us some insidious propaganda is misleading otherwise would-be peaceful people."

Stern police measures and the work of a vigilance patrol of 1500 responsible Negro citizens of Harlem, who last night augmented the work of the 6000 city policemen in keeping order in Harlem, temporarily, is not enough. For, even though the authorities blame the wholesale affair on hoodlums, the evidence is that, while hoodlums took advantage of the disturbance to indulge in theft and vandalism, they did not create it.

There is much that could cause some of this pentup feeling and there is no point in ignoring it. Harlem is, in effect, a segregated district; its slums are terrible; sanitary conditions in many sections are vile; the district is overcrowded and, as a result, rents are inordinately high. Race discrimination which operates to the disadvantage of the Negro in certain fields of activity can cause pentup feelings of emotionally unstable breasts. For some time various progressive organizations in Harlem, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, and law-abiding citizens of the race, have been cooperating with social and civic-minded groups to alleviate and correct these causes of unrest.

But among the real causes of these sporadic expres-

AUG 15 1943

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Washington Times-Herald

Mrs. Roosevelt told a General Press conference: AUG 1943

"I can only hope that people will keep their heads and maturity it, and will realize that in these times everybody's nerves are stretched."

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 — Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, commenting today on the Harlem disorders in which six persons were killed and 201 injured, said she hoped that people who can control it will keep their heads and act in a kindly wa

Toward Rioting

Mrs. E. R. Urges Cool Headedness

Army Ordnance Equipment Leaves Site of Tribune War Show —Six Dead in Harlem Disorders

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois



[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

Clothiers' dummies from a smashed store window are strewn across this sidewalk on West 125th street, Manhattan, after a night of disorders in the Harlem district. Before the disorders were quelled, six Negroes were killed, 201 persons injured, and 359 arrested.

Army Gets 2 Accused Of Upsetting All Harlem

New York, N. Y.
World-Telegram
AUG 3 1943

Military Policeman Robert Bandy and Pvt. James Logwood, the two Negro soldiers accused of having sparked the Harlem disorders on Sunday night, today were turned over to the Army by Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio in the Felony Court.

Assistant District Attorney Whitman Knapp moved for the transfer of jurisdiction, pointing out that under the Articles of War the military has a right to demand such a transfer.

"It is fortunate that the military authorities have taken hold of this case," Magistrate Aurelio said. "I feel these men will get their just deserts."

Before signing the release Magistrate Aurelio acceded to a defense counsel request and cut the bail of Mrs. Florine Roberts, Private Bandy's mother, from $10,000 to $1,000, although the prosecution protested, saying she was a principal inciter of the disturbances.

Blast from Moses.

Meanwhile, Robert Moses, Park Commissioner, said those gentlemen who at yesterday's City Council meeting were "busy shouting about the lack of play facilities" in Harlem are merely " a few scheming fanatics who are eager to get publicity."

Mr. Moses said that Harlem has 29 playgrounds, compared with nine in 1934, and he declared the section has not been "overlooked, neglected or discriminated against."

"Unlike these demagogues and loose talkers," Mr. Moses added, "I have no instant solution for the problems of this area."

He concluded by saying the Greeks "were not so dumb when they invented the system of ostracism. Maybe we could get rid of some of our phonies under the Lend-Lease Act."

Council Criticized.

Meanwhile, Council President Newbold Morris criticized those Council members who said the city's depleted police force was responsible for the Harlem disorders Sunday. "The actions of the

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
AUG 4 1943

New York Sued for Riot Damage.

New York, Sept. 1 (AP)—Property owners have filed approximately 800 [illegible] totaling about $4,000,000 against New York City for damages sustained during the August 1 Harlem disorders, Norman L. Marks, counsel for the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, reported today.

gunshot wound in the neck.

He was Benjamin Moody, Negro, of 2323 Seventh Ave., shot by Patrolman Benjamin Wallace of the 135th St. station, at 3 a. m. last Monday as he fled after allegedly looting a grocery store at 136th St. and Seventh Ave. Police said Moody was carrying a quantity of canned goods when the bullet felled him.

Moody's death came only a few hours after the OPA had moved to control "unusual conditions" in Harlem by appointing a special field staff to police prices in the area.

ably will remain effective at least through Sunday, while street lights will burn in pre-dimout brightness for the rest of the week, Commissioner Valentine said.

New York, N. Y.
World-Telegram

6th Harlem Victim Of Disorder Dies

The sixth victim of the Harlem disorders which began Sunday night end died today at Harlem Hospital of a

Shar-operating all its lines through the majority leader, Joseph T. key, and some of his colleagues are really repulsive," he said.

Harle[illegible] continued quiet today, that beginning tomorrow the and police and municipal officials [illegible] system will be prepared to lift most of the re-patrolman will work 7 days and strictions clamped on the area then get 32 hours off. would be after the Sunday night outbreak put into effect in Harlem. He also of brawling and looting.

Commercial traffic was permitted to resume at 5 a. m. and, police said, passenger auto traffic will be permitted after 8 p. m. The New York City Omnibus Corp. started

Mayor La Guardia that the curfew be removed tonight, but the Mayor said later this would not be done.

The ban on liquor sales prob- today disorders.



Tribune
Chicago, Ill.

AUG 3 1943

[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia (right) discussing the Harlem disorders. He said "shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens."

Interracial Camp Warned Mayor Of Riot Causes; Resubmits Remedy

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

SEP 11 1943

CATSKILL, N. Y.—Almost three weeks before the Harlem riot of August 1, it is revealed, the 42 members of the staff of Timberline Parent-Child Camp, a pioneer organization in interracial family vacationing located here in the Catskill Mountains, sent Mayor LaGuardia a letter of specific remedies for [illegible] conditions which later led to the outbreak. Said the letter, dated July 10:

SEP 11 1943

"We feel that we have the finest police force of any city, by and large as free as any political, religious and racial bias. However, we note a tendency to find crime where crime does not exist. Negro children should not be arrested on silly pretexts upon which no white children would ever be arrested.

To facilitate the even-handed functioning of our police force, there should be maintained in all areas a healthy mixture of Negro and white police tackling a common problem and learning to work together in the protection of our city."

Goodwill Urged

In the matter of propaganda and racial harmony, the staff recommended "Know Your Neighbor and Good-Will Week," declaring "that the city should take immediate steps to organize a good-will program among races, colors and creeds through schools, libraries, colleges and radio, as well as other agencies at the disposal of the municipality, in cooperation with private agencies."

SEP 11 1943

Again in the past two weeks a Timberline committee has urged the mayor's consideration of a proposed program to offset further trouble of this kind. This included:

- ending economic discrimination against the Negro;
- increased job opportunities through federal allocation of war orders in the New York area;
- better housing and rent control;
- improved recreational facilities;
- improved health facilities;
- enforcement of existing and introduction of new anti-discrimination legislation;
- full [illegible] of every municipal channel for propaganda for racial harmony and good-will.

SEP 11 1943



AUG 4 1943

STORES WRECKED—Surging crowds of rioters and looters in the congested Negro section of Harlem, New York City, literally tore white-owned stores apart in night-long violence which began when a Negro struck a policeman and was shot. Smashed store dummies and broken glass litter this scene on a principal thoroughfare in the district.

AUG

Ship's Crew Lauds Mayor On Harlem

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Members of a ship's crew, carrying wra cargo, has addressed a letter to Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, commending him for saying that the recent Harlem disturbance was not a "race riot."

The **Daily Worker** was commended for its coverage of the Harlem outbreak.

AUG 9 1943

The letter was signed by every man on the crew—each one a member of the National Maritime Union.

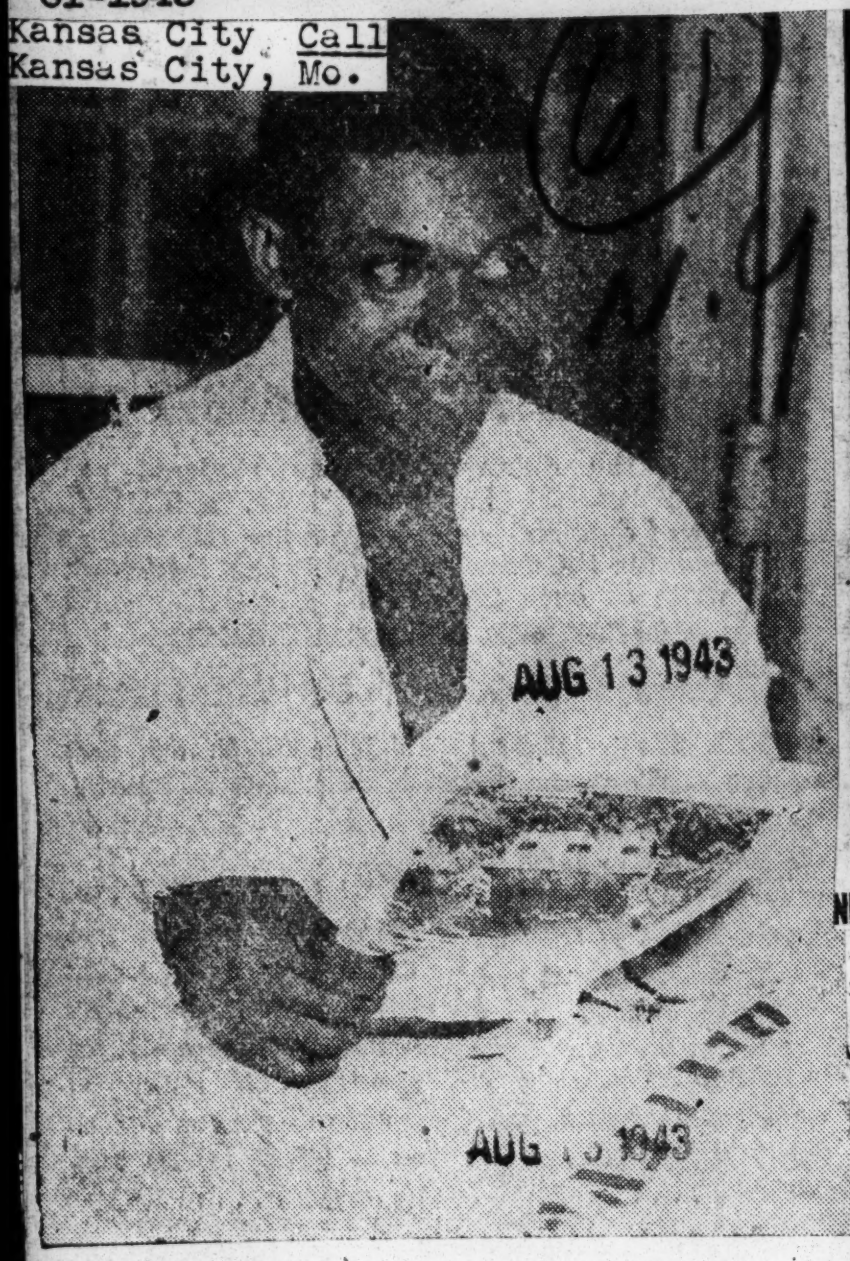
"We crew members of the S. S. Joseph Leidy, and members of the National Maritime Union, commend your prompt action in pointing out tha recent disturbances in Harlem were not 'race riots'.

"We who have sailed before and during this war, white and Negro seamen, know that there is no basis whatsoever for such a 'theory'.

"We agree with your analysis and feel that Jim Crowism, fanned by reactionaries, is the real reason for any such occurrences.

"Our [illegible] has stood against discrimination. We reaf-

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.



AUG 13 1943

AUG 13 1943

HIS ACTION STARTED IT ALL.— This is Pvt. Robert Bandy, shown in the Bellevue hospital, where he was recovering from a gunshot wound received while interfering with a patrolman making an arrest. The shooting of Bandy, an M. P., who was off duty at the time, set the spark to the series of riots and vandalism which swept Harlem, Sunday night, leaving a total of five dead, 600 hurt, and an estimated five million dollars damage.—INS photo.



NEGRO TROOPS AMONG THOSE SENT TO RESTORE ORDER IN HARLEM.— When army troops were sent to Harlem to restore order in Harlem after the wild rioting of Sunday night, August 1. Negro soldiers were among them. Here is a company of Negro soldiers arriving in the riot area. In New York the situation was handled differently and better than in Detroit, where only white troops were sent in to quell the disorders. No martial law was declared in Harlem.

AUG 13 1943

Mayor Of Detroit Knew Race Riot Was Coming

DETROIT, [illegible].—An admission that he knew the race riot was coming but simply was surprised by the day it happened, was made here to a reporter for the New York Daily PM, by Mayor Edward J. Jeffries Jr., of Detroit. He admitted that he hadn't taken any "special" measures to prevent a conflict.

The New York Daily further revealed the fact that the riots involved Negroes against Poles and other immigrant whites and not, to any measurable extent, Southern whites.

It was pointed out that the Office of Facts and Figures had first discovered the seeds for riots in Detroit 15 months ago and had, in an extensive memorandum, warned the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Housing Administration of the situation. Other government agencies in Washington were apprised of the seething revolt which could flare up at any minute but nothing was done about it.

Riots In Harlem

Post
Washington, D. C.

Harlem's riots of Sunday night and Monday appear to differ sharply from the recent racial fighting in Detroit. In the motor capital, lawless groups of white men apparently made it their business to beat up or shoot down Negroes out of racial animosity. The disorders in New York consisted of sporadic fighting between residents of Harlem and the police plus widespread vandalism. "This was not a race riot," Mayor LaGuardia declared in appealing to the "decent, law-abiding citizens of Harlem" to help curb the wave of disorders. "There was no conflict between groups of our citizens. What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people." Yet it may be assumed that both incidents stem from the general tension of the times. No doubt Harlem has been seething with resentment over the Detroit affair, as other Negro districts have been. Probably its more volatile elements seized the first flimsy excuse they could find to set off an orgy of lawlessness.

AUG 4 1943

The incident which touched off the rioting appears to have been the shooting of a Negro soldier by a white policeman. The soldier is said to have interfered with the policeman's attempt to arrest a Negro woman for disorderly conduct. Such incidents always stir up ill feeling regardless of where the chief fault may lie. But no such clash could of itself explain the smashing of windows, the looting, the showers of bricks from roof tops, the shooting and disorders that followed over a period of many hours. Only deep-seated unrest could turn a minor incident into a roaring series of riots that cost the lives of four, injured 195, and necessitated more than 360 arrests. The existence of such unrest certainly explodes the easy assumption that all is well on the home front.

Our entire Nation has a responsibility to probe into and eliminate so far as possible the causes of friction which make such tragic outbursts possible. Negro leaders everywhere have an equal obligation to convince their followers that they cannot hope to improve their situation by the tactics apparently employed in Harlem. Resort to lawlessness, particularly when the provocation is minor or nonexistent, can only destroy the constructive work of those who are trying to ameliorate the conditions under which many Negroes live.

AUG 1943

Parley Urges Mayor Name Inter-Racial Group to Act on Causes of Harlem Outbreak

SEP 27 1943

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Their plea came from the Citizens Conference for Inter-racial Unity.

Mayor LaGuardia was requested to appoint "at the earliest possible moment" a representative inter-racial committee to grapple with the conditions that led to the Harlem outbreak.

The conference which met Sat-urday at Hunter College, sponsored by many outstanding Negro and white citizens, was a direct out-growth of the Aug. 1 disorders in New York's Negro community. The conference proposed: resolutions, adopted by the conference after panel discussions, be presented to Mayor La-Guardia, Governor Dewey and the administration provide for Negro representation "on all official and quasi-official bodies dealing with their various organizations, through their various organizations, [illegible]

ficial bodies."

2—Civic responsibility: Requested that churches, trade unions, fraternal organizations "of all creeds and races . . . undertake a systematic campaign of education among their members" toward eliminating prejudice against minorities, and that the Mayor make Frederick Douglass' birthday in February "an occasion for city-wide observance."

3 — Employment discrimination: Demanded that discrimination on racial grounds in the employment and promotion of workers, "especially in the white collar category by utility companies, department stores, and the like be ended; that all labor unions bar discriminatory practices in their own operation; that the powers of the Fair Employment Practice Committee and state Anti-Discriminatory Commissions be strengthened; that private institutions and organizations do likewise.

4 — Consumer problems: Demanded more rigid enforcement of OPA regulations in Harlem and a widespread educational campaign to "stimulate public action in stopping violations of housing regulations, rent gouging, profiteering, black markets, and other inflationary dangers." This resolution asked the Mayor to "establish forthwith a public market in Upper Harlem."

5—Housing: Asked that "the appropriate official agencies, with the cooperation of private organization concerned with housing problems, act at once to (a) provide realistic rent control regulations in Harlem and other similar areas, (b) insure the right of Negroes and other minorities to live anywhere in the New York Metropolitan area, if necessary, afford them protection and (c) expose the efforts of real estate interests to maintain a segregated and restricted residential area for Negroes in order to further their own profit," that "no public subsidy, or exemption from tax-ation, federal state or municipal, be given to any housing enterprise save upon the condition that tenants will be accepted without discrimination because of race, creed, or color; that the provisions of Article 13 of the State Constitution be implemented by proper legislation in this respect, and that the city of New York should abrogate the agreement with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company concerning Stuyvesant Town, unless that company accepts an amendment which will covenant that tenants will be accepted without discrimination because of race, creed or color, and that the present alleged practice of establishing unofficial quotas in housing projects covering Negro occupants should be abolished. . . .

6—Community Service: Demanding adequate facilities and personnel for the various community services in the Harlem community, that the study of the Negro culture and achievements be promoted and that text books derogatory to the Negro or other minorities be removed and replaced with books which honestly tell the truth about such minorities. This resolution also demanded "false economy" be dropped with reference to child welfare and that the quality of the teaching facilities and the special services be improved.

7—Armed Forces: Calling upon the President to issue an executive order "ending segregation in all branches of the armed forces and allied services and that the Attorney General be requested to protect Negro soldiers by enforcing constitutional guarantees and all existing laws and that the Red Cross be called upon to end its discriminatory practice with regard to the blood bank." This resolution suggested that a Democracy in the Armed Forces Week be inaugurated and demanded that, "in the interest of the national welfare and the safety of New York," the President and the Attorney General see that the 33 indicted seditionists and their supporters be brought to trial.

The final resolution read, in full, as follows:

Major point of emphasis: Resolved, that as a direct step toward the prevention of future racial disturbances in this city and as a means for the continued promotion of inter-racial unity and for approaching nearer the ideal of New York as a model city, the Mayor be requested to appoint, at the earliest possible moment, a representative and qualified inter-racial committee whose function it will be to point out various opportunities for inter-racial cooperation in the city, as well as to cite specific conditions which contribute to inter-racial conflicts and to recommend immediate remedial action in such matters."

Panel chairmen, leaders, secretaries and consultants included Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union; Edward Lewis, executive secretary of the New York Urban League; Edward Lawson, head of the regional FEPC in New York; Henry K. Craft, Harlem YMCA; Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs; Clifford McAvoy, of the NMU; Dr. William H. Kilpatrick; Dr. George Cannon, chairman of the Citizens Non-Partisan Committee to Elect Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. to the City Council; Lillian Hellman, author of "Watch on the Rhine" and "The Little Foxes"; the Rev. Ben Richardson, assistant pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church; Jean Muir, motion picture star and author of the "Unity Pledge" signed throughout the country and presented to the Mayor Saturday afternoon; Dr. Lawrence Reddick, curator of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature, 135th St. Branch of the New York Public Library; Dr. James Waterman Wise; Assemblyman Hulan Jack.

Speakers at the closing session Saturday night were Councilman Adam Clayton Powell, Saul Mills, for the New York CIO Newbold Morris, City Council president, Dr. Channing H. Tobias, who presided in the absence of Marian Anderson, who was ill, and Dr. Max Yergan, who read the resolutions.

More than 600 persons took part in the panel discussions. About 1,500 persons were present at the evening session.

Arrest of Looter Cheered in Harlem

In contrast to Sunday night's disorders, when window-smashing appeared to meet with the full approval of thousands of persons milling around in Harlem's streets, a patrolman was cheered justly last night when he arrested a 61-year-old unemployed man for pitching a box through the window of a vegetable store at 2168 Fifth Ave., between 132nd and 133rd Sts.

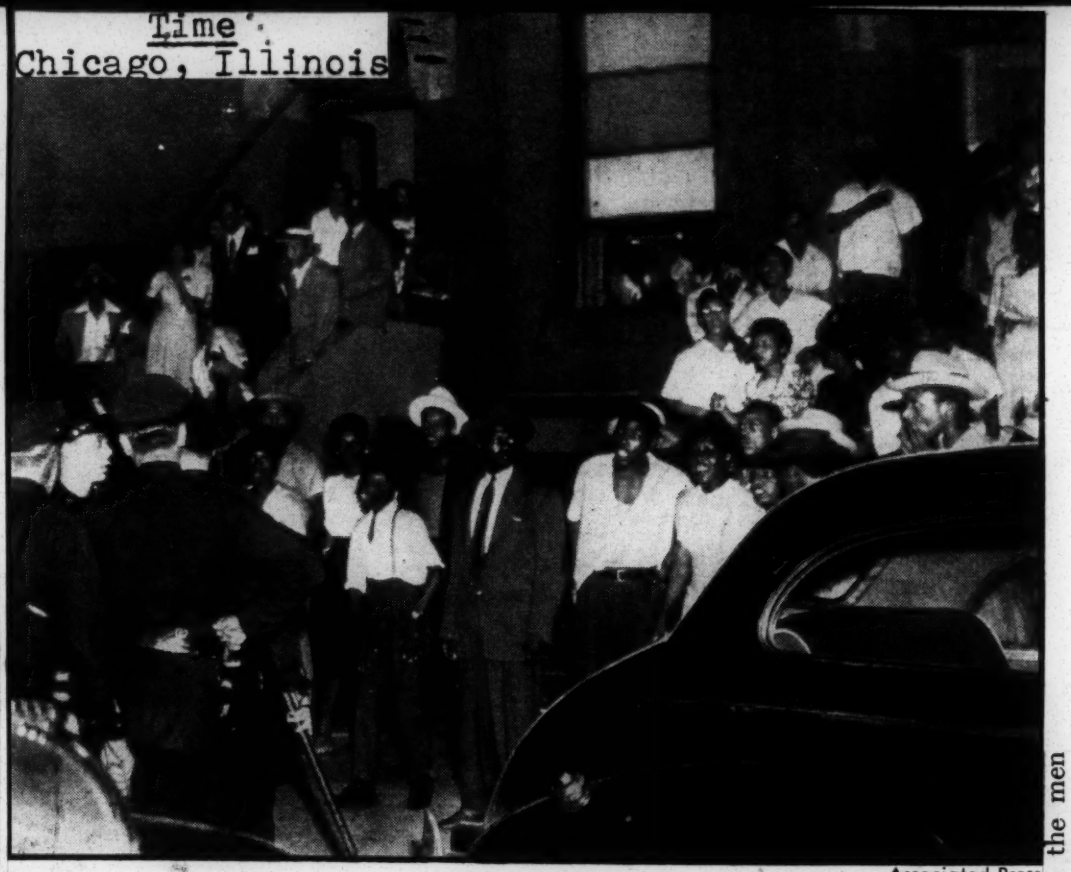
"That's the stuff, officer," one person among the spectators yelled. "Take 'em away. The likes of him has caused enough trouble around here."

The prisoner, who gave his name as Edward Williams, was taken to Night Court, where he was held in $250 bail on a malicious mischief charge.

The OPA meanwhile announced that it would open a special field office in Harlem, in the basement of the public library branch at 136th St., near Lenox Ave., to provide "a closer approach to the Harlem situation."

Another Harlem incident last night occurred in a tavern at 135th St. and Seventh Ave., where Clayton J. Byrd, 16, said by police to be in the United States Navy, was stabbed during an altercation with four unidentified men. He was taken to Harlem Hospital, in serious condition.

Time
Chicago, Illinois



Associated Press

TENSION IN HARLEM
Mayor LaGuardia: "Shame has come to our city."

RACES

The Taut String

In too many U.S. communities this week, whites and blacks tiptoed stiff-legged around one another, watching, waiting and a little afraid. The ugliest strand of the U.S. fabric had tightened under wartime pressure.

In New York City's Harlem, Negro capital of the U.S., a white policeman arrested a Negro woman for disorderly conduct. A Negro soldier, on leave, tried to stop him. Both went to the hospital, the policeman with a battered head, the soldier with a pistol wound in the shoulder. The story, much garbled, spread quickly through Harlem.

Bands of Negroes broke windows, looted shops, burned an automobile, beat up two amazed British seamen leaving Harlem's famed Apollo Theater. Twenty-four hours later six Negro rioters were dead, 543 rioters and police injured; a curfew was clamped on Harlem.

Through the confusion strode troubled Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, urging the crowds to go home, trying to justify the hope of decent Americans that the race problem need not be thrashed out in wartime violence. Said he, irascible but patient, with his own peculiar dignity:

"This was not a race riot. There was no conflict between groups of our citizens. What happened was the senseless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people. Shame has come to our city and sorrow. . . ."

PM
New York, N. Y.

From the Editor

This and That

We had known that a good half of our writers had written books at one time or another, but it came as a surprise when Boris Todrin of our *Shopping News* dept. sent in a volume of verse, *7 Men*, just published by G. P. Putnam Sons a few days after he went in the Army. He worked here for some time—and used the less esthetic Bruce as his first name instead of Boris. Probably that is why we didn't suspect that he was given to poetry. Actually this is his fourth published volume, and it's good. This Fall he has a novel coming out and a fifth book of poems . . .

Capt Ralph Ingersoll, who is still stationed in London, has just been assigned as military aide to Sen. James M. Mead, one of five U. S. Senators now making a tour of installations in the European theater . . .

PM readers will recognize many of the names they run across in John Roy Carlson's *Under Cover*. He spent several years assembling the evidence which he lays out in the book against our native fascist double-talkers and double-crossers. We on PM are pleased to note that he dusts off a lot of the same

Here is an ironic note brought back by our photographers from the Harlem riots: Photographers for other newspapers which never give the Negro an even break and never use a Negro's picture unless it's in a crime case or a sporting event, sailed under false colors during the riots. Whenever they were asked what papers they were on the response was—"PM" . . . I hope the Mayor doesn't get so to work on the problem the men in this city who could really throw some weight in preventing a race riot that riot.—JOHN P. LEWIS.

61-1943

NEW YORK

Your History

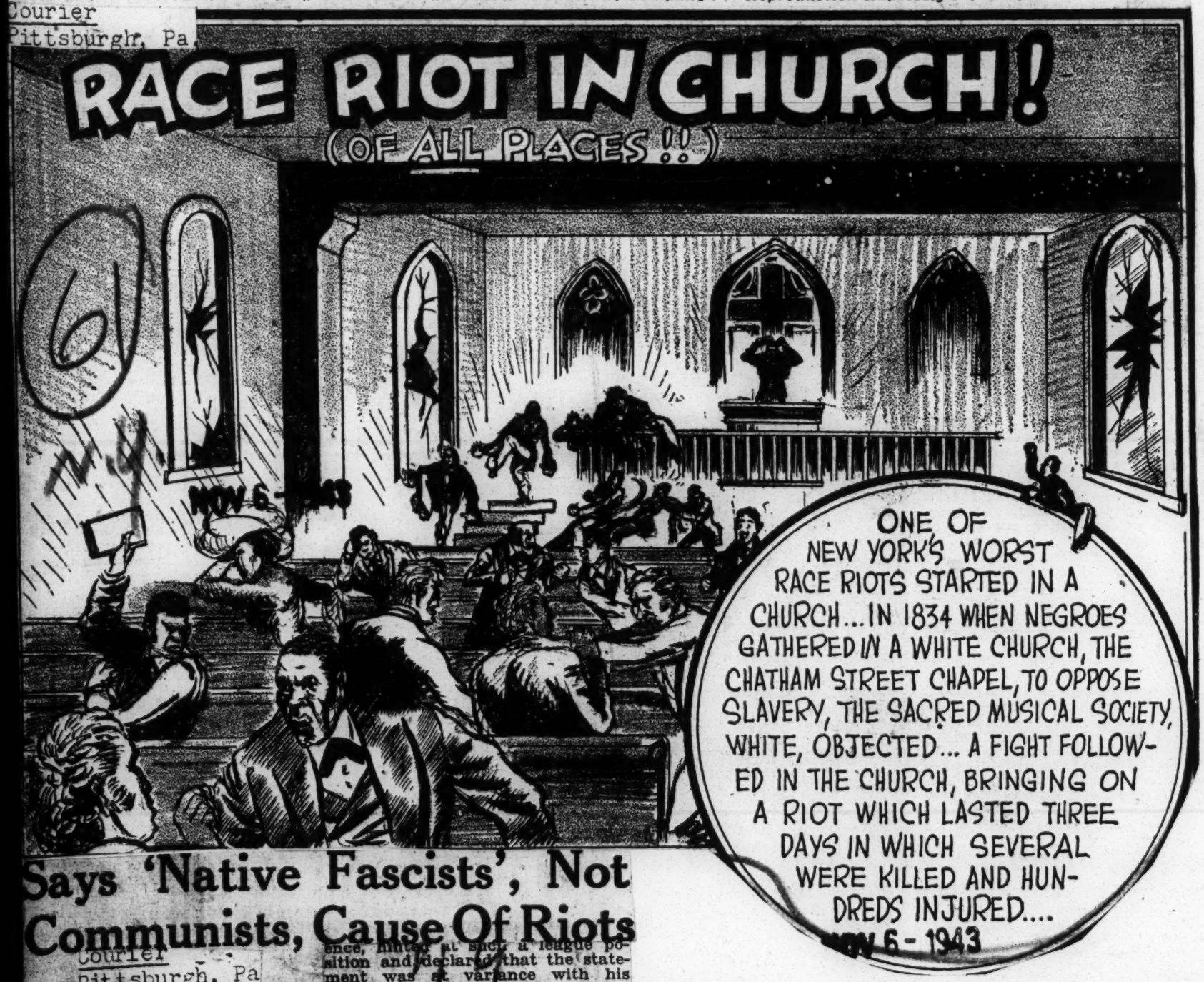
Dates Back Beyond the Cotton Fields of the South . . Back Thousands of Years Before Christ!

By J. A. Rogers

Illustrated by SAMUEL MILAI

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Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.



Says 'Native Fascists', Not Communists, Cause Of Riots

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa
OCT 30 1943

NEW YORK—Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban league, responded to an inquiry by Congressman Freda E. Busbey of the Illinois Third District, by declaring that a Chicago reporter was guilty of "deliberate misstatement' in reporting that Granger had ascribed the Detroit riots to the work of Communists. The reporters story, which appeared in a Chicago daily was circulated by a national press service and carried by newspapers throughout the country.

The league official pointed out that no other newspaper, white or Negro, representing the conference, hinted at such a league position and declared that the statement was at variance with his own report to the conference, as well as the official findings on the Detroit riot [illegible] were released by the National Urban League in a pamphlet, "Racial Conflict: A Home Front Danger."

It would be inexcusable, Granger declared, for any Urban league official to make a finding of Communist instigation of the Detroit riot, since the league's official report clearly describes the riots as being the result of native Fascist American democratic principles.

Tribune Editor Sees New York Riot

AUG 7 1943

Washington Tribune
Washington. D. C.

Six Dead, 300 Injured as Hoodlums Tear Up Harlem

AUG 7 1943

By GARLAND MACKEY

Managing Editor Washington Tribune

NEW YORK—All hell broke loose here in Harlem Sunday night and Monday morning found the business sections of all Harlem a shambles.

Six persons were listed as dead and over 300 injured after a night of rioting and pillaging never seen before in this country. The victims, all Negroes, were Sterling Stokes, 20, of Savannah; Frank Stoner, 40; Michael Young, 43; Zinc Randolph, 35; Neil Lucas, and an unidentified man.

The rioting started shortly after 9:30 p.m. Sunday when it was reported that a colored soldier had been shot and killed by a white policeman. The rumor spread like wildfire and some crowds began to gather on street corners and threaten police.

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Rumor Unture

The rumor was untrue as the soldier was only slightly injured after he had attacked a policeman and knocked him down with his night-stick. The officer shot the soldier as he fled from the scene.

The first of the rioting took place near 125th Street and Lenox Avenue when a group of hoodlums broke a store window. These hoodlums, all in their teens, took courage when police refused to take any action. Later gangs, some led by young girls and women, began a systematic program of smashing windows and looting stores.

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Followed Mob

I saw part of it from my window in the Theresa Hotel before going down to the street. I followed the gangs for several blocks. The one I followed was led by two young sailors in white uniforms. They would point to a window and someone would smash it with a brick or plank. All would rush in, grab the contents of the window, and go to the next store. Young girls were trying on dresses on the street while others would sit on the curb and try on shoes. A liquor store was smashed open and whiskey by the loads were carted out. The mob would stop to drain the contents of quart bottles then began its rampage of destruction. Police would stand gidly by and let the mob hold sway. When I asked several officers why no effort was made to halt the lawlessness they would merely shake their heads and say, "it's orders."

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Fury Increased

As the night wore on the fury of the mob increased. Some tried to set fire to stores after carrying off the stock. Several large department and jewelry stores were the targets of many Street cars were stopped and There were no attempts to harm white persons who happened to be in the neighborhood. many colored persons were struck by flying missiles.

Several Army trucks rushed up and parked in the center of 125th Street and Seventh Avenue. When white military police began to pour out the mobs began to boo them. These white M.P's left after staying a few minutes. The crowd cheeded and yelled, "we want colored military police."

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About 3 a.m. Sunday the males began to smash all store windows and loot stores regardless of race. At one time a gang threatened to smash the windows of the Hotel Theresa. Several stores on the ground floor of the hotel were broken into, including the headquarters of A. Philip Randolph's March on Washington Committee. At the height of its fury about 4 a.m., colored and white store windows were smashed and the stores looted.

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Leaders Meet

Harlem leaders and Mayor La Guardia were in constant meetings all night. It was a grotesques sight to see young girls standing in broken windows trying on dresses and other clothes while their male companions stood outside and cheered.

All traffic was halted late Sunday night and visitors found themselves marooned. Buses bypassed all of Harlem and subway trains came no nearer than 110th Street.

Harlem awoke Monday to find all stores closed and guarded by police. No newspapers were on sale. Bread, milk and food trucks failed to make deliveries and Harlem went hungry Monday.

AUG 7 1943

400 Arrested

Over 400 persons, mostly teen aged youths were paraded before Felony Court Monday morning while another 50 or more women —teen aged girls stood, bewildered, before the judges, to face charges of looting. Many of the officers escorted their prisoners to the bar carrying the goods for which they were charged of stealing, with them. Nearly all the cases were set over for a week for hearing after bonds of upwards to $1,000 had been assessed.

THE HARLEM INCIDENT

Defender Chicago, Ill.

Harlem, New York, is the largest Negro city in the world. It is undoubtedly, also, one of the most, if not the most important. It reflects the moods of Negro America to a sharper degree, perhaps, than any other city, for there are located the headquarters of most of the national organizations of the Negro people, and from there run the ties that bind Negro America to the Negroes of the Latin-American countries, the West Indies, and even Africa itself. The Negro world will be deeply moved by the events which occurred in Harlem.

Let us not forget that this rioting comes at a crucial moment in this war for national liberation. What is its significance — its great significance? It does not matter that there was a difference in the character of the violence as it reflected itself in Harlem, and the rioting against Negroes in Detroit and other cities. Harlem cannot be separated from Detroit. Fundamentally, the same factors that led to the Detroit outbreak are responsible for the scenes which disgraced New York City's Negro district.

Mayor La Guardia has charged the rioting in Harlem to the "thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, and reckless irresponsible people." This answers nothing, explains nothing. This is far too simple an approach. It avoids those fundamental factors which, in this war are becoming dominant in the life of the Negro people—social ostracism and segregation, political disfranchisement, economic restrictions, and the long list of civil disabilities which have accumulated over the years and are creating a very unstable social psychology among the Negro people. These cannot be removed from any discussion of the Harlem clash. They are the hidden minefields which can cause another destructive explosion at any moment. The mayor of every large American city, must not ignore these factors. They are present everywhere.

The President of the United States must address himself to these factors and the strained conditions they have created, giving concrete directives for the remedying of the explosive relations. Only thus are we going to check this spread of violent reaction, which in so many instances is being provoked by the insidious work of defeatists and fifth-column elements. Already the President has struck at these conditions with the Order No. 8802, and his Fair Employment Practices committee. Now he must move another step or two —a yard or more, forward.

Harlem must be studied by the trade union movement, by the churches, and by the mass civic organizations. These institutions have a responsibility to give aid to the President in the solution of our racial problems. That responsibility is growing increasingly more obvious and more serious. It must be tackled. There are no insurmountable difficulties in the road toward national unity.

Harlem must alarm the nation. There must be no smug satisfaction in the fact that the clash between white and black America took on a different, a milder character here. That was purely accidental. It was due, in part, to the splendid position taken by Mayor La Guardia, to the work of Mr. Walter White of the NAACP, Dr. Max Yergan of the National Negro congress, and characters of like stature—and reflects the fact that we are not confronted with "thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums and reckless irresponsible people," but with deeply rooted grievances to which responsible people must address themselves.

The lessons of Harlem point to the need of a national enlightment campaign. The press must be used as a weapon to destroy the political and cultural, if it cannot at this moment destroy the economic base, in which the causes of this racial strife have their being. This means that the poll tax system can and must be destroyed now; that every tendency to depict the Negro in the theatre, on the screen, in the press and elsewhere as a buffoon, a clown, and a creature lacking in the highest virtues of Americanism, must be ended now. This is what we mean when we say that the political and cultural base for these riots must be destroyed. This can be done now, if the Trade Union movement as a whole will rally its forces for this struggle.

The struggle to down racial hatreds in America, is a part of the struggle to win the war. It is so inseparably a part of the struggle to win the war, that unless we throw our strongest forces on this front, the battle in Europe can be lost, or can be made abortive if won. This is a part of the struggle to win the peace. This is a part of the struggle for a future society that will have a real Good-Neighbor policy, which begun at home, can then be spread abroad.

61-1943

NEW YORK

Caviar & Cabbage

By M. Beaunorus Tolson

(THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THIS COLUMNIST DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE EDITORIAL OPINION OF THE WASHINGTON TRIBUNE.—THE EDITOR.)

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Harlem After the Riot

Out of the mouth of the subway the people poured. I was among them, with my battered suitcase from the Texas prairies. I had spent a few days in Washington among the B. N.'s (Big Negroes) and also the L. N.'s. Now I was to see with my own eyes what happens in a "Christian" country.

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So at Lenox Avenue and 125th, I came out the subway. A good sister from Dixie and her *staircase* children (I counted eight steps in the staircase) bustled up into the glorious sunlight.

I thought of the late Rudolph Fisher, who wrote that touching story, *The City of Refuge*, the tale of an old Negro preacher who, like this big dark mother, escaped from Dixie to Harlem. Fisher called Harlem the City of Refuge!

But I also thought of the late "Harlem" Thurman, another writer friend of mine in the good old days. Fisher and Thurman didn't get on well. Now, Thurman read Fisher's famous story, *The City of Refuge*, and then called Harlem the City of Refuse!

THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION

Now, Mayor La Guardia will have a learned committee of D.D.'s and Ph.D.'s to investigate this riot. But, as I look about, I think that Fisher and Thurman gave all the answers. Why did all these Sambos and Aunt Hagars crowd into Harlem? Why did 60,000 West Indians come here? Why did the black folks leave Chittling Switch and Sleepy Towns Down South?

The answer is this: Harlem was pictured to them as the City of Refuge. Here they would enjoy the Four Freedoms. Oh, yeah? I just called the wife of my dead friend, V. F. Calverton. She lives among the dicty 400. Ten minutes ago she invited me to lunch and told me not to take the freight elevator if they tried to make me. Just call for her. Ain't that something? My black face puts me among the freight even in New York. And a Joan of Arc has to rescue me. Well, anyway, all these Negroes came to Harlem looking for a City of Refuge.

Why did they want a City of Refuge? Well, if you've ever traveled through the Egypt-land of Bilbo's dark state, you can understand the migration of blacks from the Bible Belt of the Ku Klux Klan.

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But after the masses get here, the high rent and city evils tear the body and soul. Last night I went into the dark places of Harlem, where the police walk four by four. Little black Al Capones to be and little whores to be filled the smelly streets. Yes, when you leave the dicties on Sugar Hill, you see that Thurman was right when he called Harlem the City of Refuse.

THE ENEMY

I see stores with the windows caved in. These stores are owned by Jews and Italians and Germans. These stores tell big stories. Who own Harlem? Everybody but the Negroes. Now, this is the strangest thing in the world. Could you conceive of Negro merchants running all the business in an Irish community? Hell, no! All the money in Harlem goes into white pockets, although black hands earn the money. Now, you see why the black hands battered in the stores that white hands had built.

It was bad. Yes, Lord! When people come to a City of Refuge, and it turns out to be a City of Refuse, anything can happen.

Last night on 123rd Street, I heard a conversation. The young woman had two rocky-road suitcases. The lady of the house was full of righteousness at the top of the steps.

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"Now, you git out and stay out!" said the land lady. "This is a respectable house. You young hussies from the South come up here and falls in sin—why, it's a shame before God!"

The young woman was crying. "I ain't no hussy. I comes from a good family down in Atlanta. Everybody makes mistakes."

"When you make mistakes in my house," said the righteous lady, "you has to pull up stakes."

False Report That Soldier Was Killed Leads to Outburst

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md

Hundreds Injured as Police Battle Crowds Looting Harlem Stores; Area Quiet Monday Night

AUG 7 - 1943

By MELVIN B. JOHNSON
(Staff Correspondent)

AUG 7 - 1943

NEW YORK—Six colored men were killed and more than 549 white and colored persons were injured in a series of sporadic riots throughout the Harlem area Sunday night and early Monday.

Set in motion by the erroneous report that a colored soldier had been killed by a white policeman, the outbreaks continued for several hours and required more than 5,000 police officers to subdue them.

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Also assigned to patrol duty Monday were 500 firemen, 1,500 members of the City Patrol Corps, under the supervision of Major Samuel Battle, and hundreds of air raid wardens. More than 500 persons had been arrested.

The rioters, completely uncontrolled by a few hundred regular policemen assigned to the area, wrecked practically every store from 110th Street north to the Harlem River, resulting in damages of approximately two million dollars.

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Youths Mostly to Blame

Classed by Walter White of the NAACP as "worse than the Detroit riots," the uprising of resentment was confined mostly to youths, who smashed every window in sight, while adults went about looting and stealing from neighborhood stores.

With Mayor Fiorella La Guardia personally in command, policemen, soldiers and civilians banded together in an effort to check outbreaks in which many shots were fired by the police to halt the raiding of stores.

Mayor La Guardia, Walter White, Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress; Ferdinand A.

How It Began

The outbreaks resulted from an attempt of Patrolman James Collins, white, of the 135th Street station, to arrest Miss Margaret Polite, 35, of 368 West 127th Street, on a disorderly conduct charge.

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Police reports indicate that the soldier, who entered the woman engaged in a dispute with hotel with his mother, Mrs. Flor-Harry Wagner, night manager of ence Roberts of Middletown, Braddock Hotel at 126th St., and Conn. had words with the officer. Eighth Avenue, over the time she Pvt. Bandy, police said, then would be permitted to have use grabbed Patrolman Collins' night-of a room, reportedly for illicit stick and began to beat him over purposes. the head.

Called over to the desk by the Bandy turned and ran after the manager to put the woman out of alleged assailant, the police said, the hotel, Patrolman Collins was and as he reached the door, Colreported to have been talking to lins fired a shot that struck the member of the 730th Military Po- when Pvt. Robert Bandy, 26, soldier in the back, dropping him lice at Jersey City, N.J., intervened.

Crowd at Hospital

Bandy was taken to Sydenham Hospital at Manhattan Avenue

and 124th Street, where a crowd of soldiers and civilians, numbering over 3,000, gathered within a few minutes after the shooting.

Reports that Bandy had been killed served to inflame the crowd, with demands being made that someone be permitted to see him to prove the rumor false.

The soldier was later removed to Bellevue Hospital, where an operation was performed to remove the bullet from his back.

Under Police Guard

Bandy has been placed under police guard and will face a charge of assault when he recovers, police said.

Patrolman Collins, after taking Miss Polite to the West 123rd Street station, received treatment for head injuries at Sydenham Hospital.

Miss Polite was held in $10,000 bail in Felony Court, Monday, as was Private Bandy's mother, who was accused of striking Patrolman Collins.

The crowds, dispersed by the police from the hospital and police station, gathered at other places in the area, with reports of the "death" of Bandy being circulated.

Radio Appeals Made

When the rioting grew worse, Mayor LaGuardia went on the air over Mutual and Columbia Broadcasting stations to appeal to the citizens.

Dr. Yergan and Smith also made appeals, after being presented by the Mayor.

Their appeals, coupled with a statement by the Rev. Mr. Johnson from a police car, served to calm the rioters only for a brief period.

Fighting and looting continued several hours and policemen and firemen were ordered from all sections of the city to the Harlem area.

Colored MP's Arrive

At 12:37 a.m., four truckloads of colored MP's, escorted by motorcycle policemen, arrived at the West 123rd Street police station.

Thirty-two in number, they were sent on a tour of the area to gather up soldiers on leave in Harlem.

The first looter slain was Frank Stoner, 40, address unknown, who was shot in front of the Adler Luggage Shop at 130 W. 125th Street.

The officer said he fired after Stoner tried to stab him with a pocket knife.

Find Body in Hall

At 4:30 a.m. Monday, Patrolman John Maier, white, found the body of Michael Young, 43, in a hallway at 2117 Eighth Avenue.

Young, who lived at 271 West 113th Street, had been shot in the chest.

Stanley Stokes, 20, of Savannah, Ga., and another unidentified man, man, died of gunshot wounds at Bellevue Hospital, early Monday morning.

Fleeing, Was Slain

Others reported dead were Vincent Randolph, 35, of Savannah, Ga., who was slain by a policeman as he ran from a store at Seventh Avenue and 136th Street, and Neil Lucas, address unknown, who was found dead in a looted pawnshop on 125th Street.

Aside from the 350 or more persons receiving treatment at various hospitals, police said that nearly as many more treated their injuries at home.

Not a "Race" Riot

The outbreaks, Mayor LaGuardia and the various colored leaders pointed out, were not directed against white citizens, and was definitely not a race riot.

Mayor LaGuardia summed up the outbreaks in the following manner:

"This was not a race riot. There was no conflict between groups of our citizens.

"What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people.

"Shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem area."

Police Stations Overtaxed

Arrests of persons for disorderly conduct, burglary, felonious assault and other crimes were so great that Harlem police stations were inadequate to hold the prisoners.

An emergency police station was set up at 2:30 a.m. Monday, on the drill floor of the 101st Cavalry, Madison Avenue, and 94th Street to take care of the overflow.

The drill floor presented an unusual sight as the several score prisoners rested beside a variety of looted goods, including expensive fur coats, bedding, canned goods, liquor and clothing taken from dry-cleaning establishments.

Not Race Riot Says White

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

(Statement by Walter White, secretary, NAACP, re Harlem Riot)

It cannot be too clearly emphasized that this was not a race riot in any sense of the term. The false rumor that a policeman had killed a colored soldier in the presence of his mother spread like wildfire. The mistreatment of colored soldiers, particularly in the South, is a terribly sore point with colored people.

Thus the beginning of the trouble. Had it been a colored civilian, however prominent, who was shot, there would have been no riot. But after the riot started, looters seized the occasion to pillage and destroy, just as irresponsible persons always use such occasions, for example, looting even during air raids in Great Britain.

No Excuse for Crime

But that does not excuse or condone the crimes which were committed. The overwhelming majority of the citizens of Harlem were at home asleep during the trouble. Most of them did not know until morning what was going on.

Finally, the outburst of resentment was a reaction against proscription, job discrimination, and other evils which have created a tragic bitterness among many colored persons. Let those who would criticize Harlem realize that it is not alone to blame.

Mayor LaGuardia, Police Commissioner Valentine, Colonel McNulty of the United States Army, and the entire police force of New York are to be commended for the fairness and intelligence with which they handled the situation.

Death List of New York Riot Reaches Six

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—Deaths recorded in the Harlem disorders up to noon Monday were:

STOKES, STERLING, 20, of 504 Montgomery Street, Savannah, Ga. Found at Seventh Avenue and 122nd Street at 2:30 a.m. suffering from gunshot wound of right thigh. Died in Bellevue Hospital.

STONER, FRANK, 40, address not given. Shot as he was carrying a suitcase from a luggage store at 130 W. 125th Street. Stoner drew a knife when commanded by Patrolman William L. Clements to drop the suitcase. Patrolman shot an killed Stoner.

YOUNG, MICHAEL, 43, of 271 W. 113th Street, found dead with gunshot wounds in chest in doorway at 2117 Eighth Avenue at 3:15 a.m.

RANDOLPH, ZINC, 35, address unknown. Shot and killed by Patrolman Wallace, of the W. 135th Street station, at the corner of Seventh Avenue and W. 135th Street. The officer said he saw Randolph fleeing with merchandise taken from a store window.

LUCAS, NEIL, address unknown, shot and fatally injured at 4:40 a.m. at the Morningside Bar and Grill, 2118 Eighth Avenue.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN. He died at 10 a.m. in Harlem Hospital of a gunshot wound.

INJURED

BANDY, PVT. ROBERT, 26, 135 Mt. Vernon Street, Middletown, Conn., attached to the 730th Military Police Battalion at Jersey City. Shot in back by Patrolman James Collins in lobby of Hotel Braddock. In Bellevue prison ward.

CAIN, MRS. ETHEL, 62, 240 Demarest Avenue, New Milford, N.J. Struck on head by bottle while riding on Fifth Avenue bus near Sydenham Hospital. Attended there and went home.

LARGI, ALFRED: 19, 60 State Street, Paterson, N.J. Stab wounds in back and laceration of left eye. Assaulted at 125th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue. Attended and home.

MACENSAUER, JOSEPH, white, 41, of 162 E. 184th Street. The Bronx. Stab wounds of upper chest and face when attacked by a group at Morningside Avenue and 126th Street. In Harlem Hospital.

DAVID OSBORN, 45, 259 Lenox Avenue. Shot near the left eye while walking at 134th Street and Lenox Avenue. In Harlem Hospital.

BURDEN, WILLIAM, 31, of 301 W. 126th Street. Gunshot wound in the right shoulder. Bellevue Hospital.

McDERMOTT, PATROLMAN HENRY, Mounted Squadron 1. Contusions.

ZEDON, ABRAHAM, white, 61, 55 W. 144th Street. Abrasions of the right eye.

ZAW, ARTHUR, 23. Shot in back.

DUNN, JAMES, 23, of 534 Convent Avenue. Shot in abdomen by Detective John Lwis of th Fourth District Division after he allegedly ignored policeman's order to stop looting hat store at Eighth Avenue and 126th Street.

WASHINGTON, HERBERT, 20. Shot in the stomach by Detective Lewis while allegedly looting same hat store.

EAGLE, JAMES, 18, of 115 W. 122nd Street. Shot in right leg by Detective Lewis in same melee.

MORRIS SCHWARTZ, W. 123rd Street station, cut on right knee.

HERMAN BAKER, Atlantic Avenue, station, head injury.

LOUIS MOLINA, 103 Lenox Avenue, station, chest bruised.

FRANCIS McNALLY, Emergency Squad 2, bruises on chest and injury of right thumb.

DABID R. GOTTLIEB, Ryer Avenue station, bruises on left leg and back.

PHILIP HEAJER, Traffic D, fractured right shoulder and injury to left arm.

JOHN J. ORLOWSKI, W. 123rd Street station, head bruises.

JOHN CHANDA, W. 123rd station, bruises on left arm.

CHARLES WEIGAND, Troop D, cuts and bruises of head.

WILLIAM HUDSON, Wadsworth Avenue, station, cuts on left hand.

LUGOVICO DURANTI, Williamsbridge station, cuts and bruises of left leg.

FREDERICK HEUSEL, W. 123rd St. station, bruises on right leg.

HARRY HELLER, W. 68th Street station, bultiple injuries of back.

JACOB RIEDE, Elmhurst station, cut on left leg.

JOSEPH M. BROWN, Traffic N, human bites on both hands.

HERMAN LINDE, W. 135th Street station, cut on right middle finger.

SAMUEL RUBENFELD, Police Academy, puncture would, right wrist and bruises on left leg.

EDWARD JEFFERSON, E. 126th St. station, collapsed of fatigue.

DETECTIVES

ADAM REDENBERG, E. 67th Street, station, cut on hand and knee.

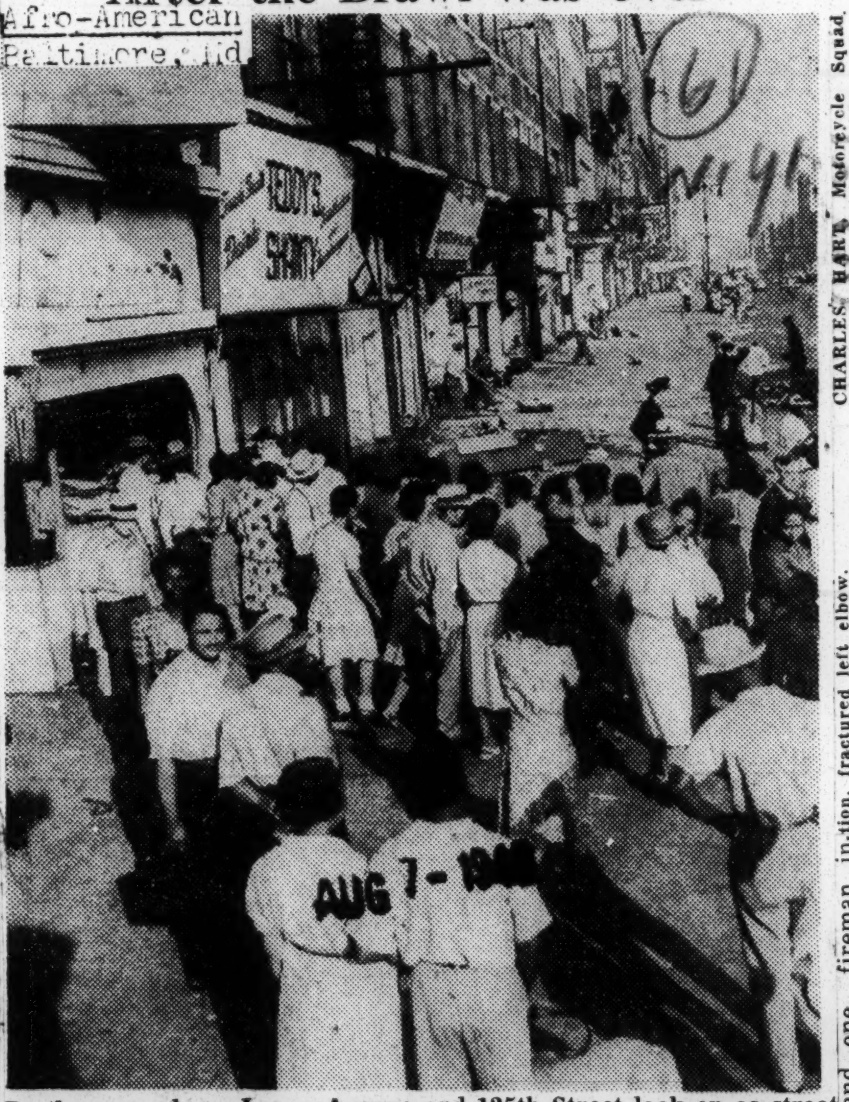
CONRAD FRINZ, W. 30th Street station, cut on right foot.

FIREMAN

JAMES J. McKEON, Engine Co., 58, multiple body injuries.

After the Brawl Was Over

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.



Restless crowds on Lenox Avenue and 125th Street look on as street cleaners sweep piles of broken glass and debris from this Harlem street. Hundreds of shop windows were smashed and more than thirty stores were looted.

40 Cops, One Fireman Hurt

The following is a list of 40 policemen and one fireman injured in the Harlem disorders:

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

CAPTAINS

R. A. LITTLEFIELD, W. 135th Street, fractured right ankle.

WALTER HARDING, W. 135th Street, cut left eye.

SERGEANTS

PIERC[illegible] Street, kicked i[illegible]

JOHN GREEN, Amsterdam Avenue, station, bruises, right arm and head.

DENNIS MURPHY, Elizabeth Street, station, fractured nose.

ROBERT RODER, W. 123d Street sta-

CHARLES HART, Motorcycle Squad, 2, cuts of all fingers, left hand.

PATRICK J. KERNS, W. 123rd Street station, cut scalp.

THOMAS SULLIVAN, Troop D, neck bruises.

EDWARD LYNCH, W. 51th Station, and cuts of hand and knee.

FRED KOWSKY, E. 104th station, left eye and ankle, human bite on rig[illegible]

PATROLMEN

JAMES COLLINS, W. 123rd Street station, cuts and bruises of head.

MEYER BERKMAN, Clinton Street, station, bullet wound in abdomen.

FRANCIS GELDA, W. 123rd Street, station, stab wounds, left arm.

JOSEPH LEE, Astoria station, cuts, bruises of left eye, bite on r[illegible]

RICHARD FITZPATRICK, Fourth station, Brooklyn, bruises of[illegible]

PHILIP HANKEN, W. 123rd Street, station, bruises of left elbow and right

JOHN [illegible]

THOMAS HIGGINS, E. 22nd Street station, bruised right ankle.

THOMAS [illegible]

EDWARD JEFFERSON, E. 126th St. station, collapsed of fatigue.

BRENNAN, Traffic F.

DETECTIVES

61-1943

DuBois on the Riots

Toward one aspect of both the Detroit and New York riots, we Negroes have been dangerously reticent; and that is that the black folk have developed a dangerously criminal class. There is nothing strikingly unusual about this; any group of disadvantaged people forced into and kept in poverty insulted beyond self - respect, given but partial and limited education, exposed to disease without adequate medical care—such a group will develop dangerous criminal classes.



DR. DU BOIS

What can be done about it? To us naturally the program of crime prevention looms first and largest. In the long run it is of course of greatest value. But it cannot stand alone because the criminals actually in present existence often prevent any program from starting or attaining momentum.

To illustrate: the City-wide Citizens' Committee of Harlem asks the city for

(a) Playgrounds, recreational facilities and Summer schools.

(b) Enforcing building codes to prevent exploitation of the poor.

They ask programs for education, employment, health and housing. Hiding in this group of long-term remedies is the problem of "crime and juvenile delinquency." A more realistic approach would have been this:

Amsterdam News

Two Major Problems

We are faced by two problems:

(a) The existence of a class of criminals and semi-criminals in Harlem; we have Negro thieves, pimps, prostitutes, murderers and confidence men; we have grafters who live on prostitution, gambling and stealing; the exact numbers of this class are hard to determine, but of its existence there is not the slightest doubt. Moreover the victims of these anti-social marauders are mainly Negroes themselves and not whites. These black victims are more often silent under the grievous impact of these hoodlums than complaining, because they fear to appear disloyal to a burdened people; and because they know why this class has come to exist in such numbers. We know that their influence on our young impressionable sons and daughters is deplorable, often fatal; and it is these boys and girls who, in critical emergencies, do the open deviltry which the real criminals instigate.

(b) The problem of preventing the rise and development in future generations of a similar and even larger and more dangerous class of anti-social elements than we now have.

Both these problems must be attacked simultaneously. If, in an attempt to prevent the growth of criminals, we neglect, gloss over the depredation of criminals today, one crime, one riot, will kill a hundred remedial efforts. If we simply punish and stop present crime, the same conditions which spawned it will be at work to replace every murderer we kill and every thief we jail.

Remedies

The two sets of remedies must go hand in hand; we must put down public hoodlumism in Harlem; we must jail robbers, electrocute murderers and put juvenile delinquents under reformatory restraint. We must do this strictly, justly and without maudlin sympathy. Our preachers and leaders must take periodically a day off from their preaching of the sins of white folk and devote a few hours to saying plainly to Negroes: "Thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not kill."

Simultaneously we must continuously say to the nation, black and white: If you keep 13 million people poor, they will be sick and ignorant and will develop a criminal class. This is the history of all nations, all races. Therefore give Negroes work at living wage; abolish Negro illiteracy by 1980; provide for medical care for all the people; establish old-age security and abolish unemployment. In all this work of social uplift, ignore the color line and attack poverty, disease, ignorance and crime.

The PEOPLE SPEAK

Amsterdam News

Parents Shortcomings Helped Start Riot'

New York, N. Y.

Sir: As one who is interested and worked in social service and religious work, I wish to say that your paper is an organ that can do much to heal the terrible scar inflicted on our community at this time.

We know the danger of a fond parent who closes his eyes to the faults of his offspring and defends him at any cost—so it is with our people. All complaints against their bad behavior in the past, you have parried, now they have done this terrible thing. Whom have they hurt? . . . their own race . . . the clothes from the cleaners and tailors were our own . . . the shops they have looted are the shops that are giving our people work. Defense of our race does not warrant stealing. Even during the time you were writing in the paper concerning crime in Harlem and defending them, the decent people knew it was all too true.

Follow Up

Our men who should be defending the Negro women, were accosted by [illegible] their knives to their throats and in their sides . . . taking them to parks and roof-tops and raping them. Our pocket books were being snatched—our homes broken into and even our churches broken into and even polluted. WHY? Because instead of rectifying these things, we are sensitive about what the other race says about us, we defend each other right or wrong. It has become dangerous to walk the streets day or night in Harlem because the criminal element is having the right of way.

Our paper—THE AMSTERDAM NEWS—should do something about it. It is like nursing a poisonous reptile until it is too big to handle. Decent people are even moving away from Harlem to other parts simply because of crime. We would like to let the other people of the world know that our race can live in a community decently and in order. In most cities the Black Belt is the Criminal Belt—Harlem has been exceptional . . . now it is on its way to be like the others. We lay it all on economics but we know it is moral degeneracy and lack of religion as well.

L. A. C.

'Must Not Allow Riots to Recur'

Sir:

"The grave disturbances that occurred in the Harlem community on Sunday night, August 1, were in no way race riots as some newspapers and misguided persons tried to imply. This outbreak was due to the underlying resentments of the Negro people against the indignities to which they have been subjected—discrimination in job placement, segregation in the armed forces, lack of rent and price control, inadequate playground facilities, poor housing conditions.

"These disturbances must not be allowed to recur. It is therefore the duty of every resident of the city—Negro and white—to discount all rumors and take no part in any activity which would tend to extend Sunday night's outbreak to the proportions of a race riot."—Ferdinand C. Smith, Chairman and Charles A. Collins, Executive Secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Comimttee of Greater New York.

'Wasn't Race Riot, But Could Have Been'

Amsterdam News

Sir: I, [illegible] Crosswaith General Organizer of the I.L.G.W.U. and only Negro member of the New York City Housing Authority issued the following statement to the mayor which may be of interest to you:

"The Mayor and the Police Department of the City of New York deserve the thanks and appreciation of the good, law abiding and decent citizens of Harlem for the degree of restraint exercised in one of the most trying moments in the history of Harlem.

"The affair was not a race riot, but it could readily have become one if the police had shown less restraint. The hoodlums and other irresponsible elements who embarked upon a campaign of rampage and destruction were an exaggerated rumor have done more harm to the Negro than good, and the recent and [illegible] elements in Harlem—both white and Negro—must cease to cooperate with the police and the city administration in their magnificent effort to restore Harlem to the esteemed place it has long occupied in the hearts of those of us who have spent most of our lives here.

"The responsible and decent people of Harlem must see to it that the unsound social and economic soil out of which such unsocial conduct grows is removed and corrected. We must also see to it that the tragic affair is not pounced upon y self-seeking politicians and others with a special axe to grind, as a platform from which to sell their spurious wares."

—Fran[illegible] Crosswaith

New York, N. Y.

Attempts Contrast Of Recent Rioting

Sir: The Harlem riots were quite the opposite in effect on the white world than the Detroit affair. The looting of shops by the Negro gave the white man a sensing that there are Negroes who, if freed from restraint, would turn the city into shambles with their backwoods ways. The Detroit riots aroused pity and a sense of sympathy. The Harlem riot made the white man feel that he should stay away from the Negro altogether, particularly in the residential areas. He begins to feel that it is not safe to be in a Negro neighborhood at all. The Harlem riot puts the Negro in a bad spot and injured his reputation.

Ed Peterson, Chicago.

Aftermath Of Harlem Riots

Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

Taverns Hard Hit; Women Who "Started it" Given Mental [illegible]-up

Restaurants and taverns suffered damages of more than $1,000,000 in the recent Harlem riot, it was claimed this week, and less than one-fourth of that amount was covered by insurance.

Joseph McGuire, president of the United Restaurant Liquor Dealers of Manhattan, estimated the lossing after appealing to wholesale liquor merchants to "relieve conditions" at twenty-one bars and grills by supplying them with as much whiskey as possible.

The High Hat at Seventh Avenue and 140th Street, it was pointed out, had been so demolished that it probably never will be opened again."

Resumption of normal police patrols went into effect, meanwhile, following the first [illegible] since the rioting caused Commissioner Valentine to order 5,000 uniformed cops here to bring order out of chaos

The Commissioner denied that detectives were discourteous, oppressive or insolent to tenants while searching for loot stolen. The plainclothesmen assigned to such cases, Valentine explained, are checking only suspects.

At Mayor LaGuardia's office, it was said that the Chief Executive's illness had prevented any further action on the appointment of committee to study causes of the riot and recommend appropriate action.

Gets Mental Check-Up

In Felony Court afterward, Margie Polite, who was accused of "starting" the riot, was continued in $10,000 bail and sent to a medical institution for treatment.

Mrs. Florine Robinson, the mother of MP Robert Bandy (involved also), failed to show up for a hearing scheduled to be held [illegible] Magistrate Aurelio. Her lawyers for the accused Middletown, Conn., nurse assured the magistrate that she would appear in court this week.

George Lee, 22, a marine accused of participating in the violence while not in uniform, appeared in Special Sessions on charges of petty larceny but was released in the custody of military authorities who explained that Lee would be "docked" a month's pay and placed on "bread and water for fifteen days."

World-Telegram

New York, N. Y.

Mayor's Radio Plea for Peace in Harlem

During the night Mayor La Guardia, accompanied by Dr. Max Yergen of the National Urban League and Ferdinand Smith of the National Maritime Union, made a radio address over stations WOR and WABC urging an end to the Harlem disorders. The text of the Mayor's remarks follow:

This is Mayor La Guardia talking. I am very sorry if I am interrupting any program, but I am sure you will bear with me because if I did not deem this of the utmost importance I would not importune you at this time.

A very unfortunate incident took place in Harlem this evening. An arrest was made in a hotel lobby, a hotel, incidentally, that has

Now, my purpose in speaking time is to ask all of the peo[illegible] and then small groups walk-in the neighborhood involved ing around more in the spirit of [illegible] than anything else broke[illegible] windows. Of course, in cases like this, there[illegible] have been exaggerated statements[illegible] with the people, exciting them[illegible] made to the people, these statements were made, of

no cause to complain and should co-operate with me at this time.

I went through the district, in fact I've been going through the district, I would say, since around 9 or 9:30 and as I've stated before there was nothing very serious in the beginning but the usual crowds gathering here and there and someone's going around spreading false reports and telling the people statements that are not true.

And now and then someone's heaving a bottle or something through a window and that must stop. And that is my purpose in coming here this evening to make this appeal. I said this evening. It's morning as I look at the clock. I didn't realize it was that late. Now as I was going through the district, I met Dr. Max Yergen and Ferdinand Smith. Both of these gentlemen were as much disturbed about it as I am. They both know this neighborhood and I am just going to ask Dr. Max Yergen, who came here with me, if he will say a few words.

Dr. Yergen said:

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I speak as a citizen of Harlem and I share fully the Mayor's appeal that we do not wish any further disturbance. I share fully the Mayor's hope that my fellow-citizens will get off the streets, go home and, as he has said, go to bed. We believe we can leave it to the officials of the city to take care of the situation and if you will get off the streets and go home we will be doing our duty as citizens. I believe that is the thing for us to do now.

Mr. Smith said:

I, too, am a resident of the disturbed community. I share fully the statement made by the Mayor and Dr. Yergen. I am appealing to you to go home, stay indoors. The city officials are competent to handle the situation and they will do so, I am confident.

The Mayor added:

Thank you very much Dr. Yergen and Mr. Smith, and I assure you and you know me well enough to know that when I say something I mean it—there will be a thorough investigation, and with the same emphasis I say that we will protect lives and property until this is all over.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Harlem Riot at a Glance

AUG 7 - 1943

Six colored killed; 500 injured including 40 cops; 500 arrested Sunday night and Monday.

Governor Dewey mobilized 8,000 State guardsmen in their armories, abolished dim out, instituted a 10:30 p.m. amusement curfew.

Rumors

Riot began when reports spread that a policeman had killed a military policeman in a raid on Braddock Hotel.

All sales of liquor in Harlem area banned.

AUG 7 - 1943

430 Stores Wrecked

430 store windows wrecked. Looted damage estimated 5 million, 1 million of this in plate glass. The riot affected police and civilians who three bottles, started fires, turned in false

He's Been to No Picnic

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md



AUG 7 - 1943

This bloody victim of the riot in Harlem, shown in police custody, was one of more than 350 hurt during Sunday night's clash. There was no disorder Monday night.

alarms.

AUG 7 - 1943

Girls in Crowds

Rioters included many young girls and soldiers home on leave. The Braddock Hotel where the riot started, had for some time been under constant police guard following complaint that 20 soldiers had contracted venereal diseases there.

Police at Bay

A crowd of 700 kept policemen and five looters in an 8th Avenue pawnshop for an hour. Prisoners urged the crowd to rescue them.

Seventeen firemen were overcome battling a blaze believed set deliberately at 2436 Eighth Avenue.

AUG 7 - 1943

Police

Mayor LaGuardia called out 3,000 city patrol corps, 2,500 police regulars, 500 extra firemen and took up headquarters himself in a Harlem police station.

1,000 colored men were equipped with armbands and night sticks to preserve order.

Closed to Traffic

Harlem was closed to traffic except for food and milk trucks.

Looters, including girls, were arrested with silk hose, fur coats, cases of beer, groceries, a leg of lamb, and radios. They were made to carry them to a police station.

Pawnshop Loses $100,000

The pawnshop at 145th and 8th Avenue, estimates loss at $100,000.

Heavy iron grill work in front of store windows was wrenched loose by mobs and thrown in the street.

Sidewalks were littered with bad shoes, clothing, dummies, packages of food and everywhere was shattered glass.

Banks Left Alone

Banks suffered broken windows but were not entered.

All Sunday night burglar alarms, set off when hoodlums entered, continued to ring.

Downtown citizens, colored and white, went to work as usual. Harlem alone was barred to white visitors.

Mayor's Appeal

People gathered around loud speaker trucks listening to the Mayor's four appeals for order.

A super market at 8th Avenue and 134th Street, lost everything.

Twenty-five Harlem butcher stores had been cited by OPA for violating ceiling prices.

Food Shortage

A food shortage developed Monday. Only milk was allowed to come in.

Substantial residents watched helplessly while irresponsible boys and girls smashed windows, rained down pots, pans and hot water on crowds below.

New York's last riot was March 19, 1935, when one was killed and 100 injured.

Appeals Ignored

The crowds ignored appeals of Mayor LaGuardia and Father John Johnson of St. Martin's P.E. Church, Sunday night when they toured Harlem in police cars.

Harlem may owe this riot to a drunken women who stood in the street outside the hospital where the wounded soldier lay and screamed.

Henry's Loses Stock

Henry's Furniture Store, 2715 Eighth Avenue, lost its plate glass windows and the entire stock. The place was empty except for files from which all bills had ben scattered.

Cops were hissed when they entered houses where they heard loot was hidden. Sometimes they returned with prisoners and merchandise.

40 Police Hurt

Forty police were injured, 23 were struck by bottles and stones, two were stabbed; four were shot; two hit by fists; one kicked one had a broken arm and another a broken leg.

Leaders Help Mayor Quell Riot in Harlem

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Walter White, Max Yergan, NMU Secretary Urge Mobs to Go Home

NEW YORK—Harlem's colored leaders joined hands with Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia Sunday night to quell the serious rioting here.

All night long and early Monday, Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, toured the riot-ridden section in a sound truck and urged the mobs to go home. He said:

"I, too, am a resident of the disturbed community. I am appealing to you to go home, stay indoors. The city officials are competent to handle the situation and they will do so, I am confident."

AUG 7 - 1943

Others Appeal to Mob

During his first broadcast early Monday morning, Mayor LaGuardia introduced Dr. Max Yergan, chairman of the National Negro Congress, and Ferdinand A. Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union. Mr. Yergan said:

"Please go home and help us restore law and order. By remaining on the streets you are only hurting yourselves and the cause of colored people all over the country. We have worked for twenty-five years for the better-munity. The city executive ment of the colored people. Please officials are competent to handle the situation and they will do so, I am confident."

Soldier Not Killed

"False rumor spread that the colored soldier was dead. He was only slightly wounded in the left arm.

Among those joining the crusade for law and order were:

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who is on leave as a police lieutenant.

The Rev. John H. Johnson, pastor of St. Martin's Episcopal chaplain and pastor of Stewart Memorial Church; A. Phillip Randolph, labor leader and organizer of the March-On-Washington movement.

Judges Jane Bolin, James S. Watson and Hubert T. Delaney; Magistrate Magistrate Paige, District Attorney Francis E. Rivers, and Attorney Hope Stevens, attorney.

Working with the police in planning safeguards for Harlem citizens. I believe that is the Samuel Battles, who is on leave

"I speak as a citizen of Harlem and I share fully the Mayor's appeal that we do not wish any further disturbance. I share fully the Mayor's hope that my fellow-citizens will get off the streets, go home and, as he has said, go to bed.

"We believe we can leave it to the officials of the city to take care of the situation, and if you will get off the streets and go home we will be doing our duty as citizens. I believe that is the thing for us to do."

Mr. Smith said: "I, too, am a resident of the disturbed community. I am appealing to you to go home, stay indoors. The city officials are competent to handle the situation and they will do so, I am confident."

Negro and White, Close Ranks! N. Y. Wants No Detroit

New York, N. Y.
The Daily Worker

AN EDITORIAL

WHAT happened in Harlem yesterday was not a repetition of Detroit.

In the auto city, bands of white hoodlums, organized by the fifth column and abetted by the police, assaulted the Negro people, and spread death, destruction and terror in the Negro community.

In Harlem, there was no attack of Negroes on whites nor of whites on Negroes, except for the initial provocative incident in which a white policeman wounded a Negro soldier for attempting to prevent the arrest of a Negro girl.

Taking advantage of the resentment aroused by the false story that a Negro soldier had been killed by a police officer, groups of irresponsible elements began a wholesale looting of stores owned by white storekeepers.

This looting of stores was a shameful act at this moment in our nation's history, about which the great mass of decent, law-abiding Negro citizens of Harlem are justly angry and outraged. But, we repeat, it has nothing in common with Detroit.

The particular conditions which made Harlem the spot in which this outbreak of disorder took place are profound and far-reaching. They are aggravated by wartime circumstances, and must certainly be eliminated root and branch. The investigation of the Mayor's Committee following the 1935 Harlem riots revealed the shocking problems of housing, lack of jobs, discrimination in every field of social life facing the Negro people. These must be tackled energetically.

The central question at this moment, however, is the re-establishment of order and of discipline among the people. That's the crying need that faces us.

The outbreaks, while involving no clash between Negroes and whites, provides extremely fertile ground for fifth column attempts to stir up such clashes unless order is quickly restored. Such clashes, besides the irrearable harm they would cause to the nation's unity and war effort, would make it far more difficult to develop the fight for the elimination of those evil practices to which the Negro people are subjected.

There is another profound difference between Harlem and Detroit that must be noted. Here, our Mayor has been on the job every moment from the time the disturbances broke out. He has been working closely with the representative leaders of the Negro people, including the trade union leaders, and enlisted their aid. He has also called in many Negro people to work with the police in re-establishing order. He has handled the situation with skill and with understanding.

He should receive the full backing of every Negro and white leader throughout the city to the end that order be restored and any provocative attempts to spread the rioting immediately quelled.

White leaders in every community have a special responsibility in this situation. They should expose and balk any attempts by pro-fascist elements in their communities to organize attacks against Negro people or incite race hatred. They should make clear to the people the conditions that made the outbreak possible, and the necessity for eliminating those conditions.

In other Negro communities in the city, the local leaders and the people have the job of preventing irresponsible groups from spreading the Harlem outbreaks.

Negro and white citizens, close ranks behind the Mayor!

Re-establish order and discipline in Harlem!

Do not permit fifth columnists and pro-fascists to take advantage of the disturbances in order to create strife, chaos and division among the people of New York.

Text of Radio Plea by Mayor, Dr. Yergan, Ferdinand Smith

Daily Worker, New York, N. Y.

Going on the air over stations WOR and WABC shortly before 1 A. M. Monday, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia informed New Yorkers of events in Harlem and pleaded for calm and order. Supporting the Mayor in his plea were Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, and Ferdinand Smith, vice-president of the National Maritime Union, both of whom spoke briefly.

The remarks of the Mayor, Dr. Yergan and Smith follow:

This is Mayor La Guardia talking. I am very sorry if I am interrupting any program but I am sure you will bear with me because if I did not deem this of the utmost importance I would not importune you at this time.

A very unfortunate incident took place in Harlem this evening. An arrest was made in a hotel lobby, a hotel incidentally that has given us a great deal of trouble, I mean given the police a great deal of trouble. There seems to have been interference with the arrest and a soldier attacked the officer, the arresting officer.

A crowd gathered around and the soldier took the protect the liv
stick from the officer and struck him across the head and that mean
Whereupon the officer pulled his gun and wounded the are listening
soldier. The soldier is not seriously injured, fortunately and call the m
The police officer is also in the hospital. A crowd get them off t
gathered first in front of this hotel and then down at the quick
front of the 28th police precinct station post. want this to
Everything was quiet for some time, and then small may be some
groups walking around more in the spirit of mischief do not want th
than anything else, broke some of the store windows. Of West Harlem
course, in cases like this, there have been exaggerated and should co
statements made to the people exciting them. These state- I went th
ments were made, of course, without any source of in- through the d
formation, and the statements are not true. The facts are and as I've st
just as I have given them to you. in the beginni
Now my purpose in speaking at this time is to ask there and som
all of the people in the neighborhood involved to please and telling th
get off the streets and go home and go to bed. Unless you And now
do that we may have serious trouble. Now I am going to thing through

my purpose in coming here this evening to make this appeal. I said this evening. It's morning as I look at the clock. I didn't realize it was that late. Now as I was going through the district, I met Dr. Max Yergen and Ferdinand Smith. Both of these gentlemen were as much disturbed about it as I am. They both know this neighborhood and I am just going to ask Dr. Max Yergan, who came here with me, if he will say a few words.

Dr. Yergan said:

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I speak as a citizen of Harlem and I share fully the Mayor's appeal that we do not wish any further disturbance. I share fully the Mayor's hope that my fellow-citizens will get off the streets, go home and, as he has said, go to bed. We believe we can leave it to the officials of the City to take care of the situation and if you get off the streets and go home we will be doing our duty as citizens. I believe that is the thing for us to do now.

Daily Worker New York N.Y.
AUG 3 1943

La Guardia then introduced Smith, who said:

I, too, am a resident of the disturbed community. I share fully the statement made by the Mayor and Dr. Yergen. I am appealing to you to go home, stay indoors. The City officials are competent to handle the situation and they will do so, I am confident.

The Mayor closed the broadcast by saying:

Thank you very much, Dr. Yergan and Mr. Smith, and I assure you and you know me well enough to know that when I say something I mean it—there will be a thorough investigation, and with the same emphasis I say that we will protect lives and property until this is all over.

Calvin's Digest

Weekly Review
Birmingham, Ala.

BY DOLORES CALVIN

FOR WHAT INDEED

A noted columnist Elsa Maxwell, who has always been partial to the Negro, again goes to bat for us. Miss Maxwell, who has fought in print for better understanding between white and colored Americans believes that the Harlem riot was tragic enough but came into being through no fault of any one group or any one person.

It is her opinion that our Mayor should be commended for the way he controlled the rioters before it became an interracial affair. As fr a sthe Negro in Service is concerned, Miss Maxwell says:

"Our Negro Americans, in direct defiance of the spirit and letter of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, are consistently discriminated against, segregated and exploited. Negro soldiers are being sent to the combat zones to fight, to suffer and die. Fight and suffer and die for what? For the Poll Tax? For Jim Crow? For the right to be denied white-collar jobs? For the right to be excluded from hotels and restaurants? For the rights to be confined to a ghetto? To me, the amazing thing is not that we have riots, but that we have had so few. The fact that this is so in the face of such a bald unabashed denial to one-tenth our population of the most elementary democratic rights is a stirring tribute to the patience and virtue of the Negro people."

WE CAN'T AGREE

It seems, somehow, that we can't agree among ourselves about the Harlem Riot. It seems that some of our leaders think it set the race back 10 years, some say five. We aren't together on the situation.

However, every colored man knows that the Negro is badly theated. He has always known it. There is going to be more rioting, much more and maybe it shall be much worse but it can never actually set us back for any length of time. As a race, we are practically at the bottom now. There is no way to go but upwards.

The riots in Harlem showed the people of New York what could be done and newspapers here even admitted that it exposed the real feeling Harlemites have held against race prejudices. It made the Americans who considered our problem small indeed compared to war emergency, look around and take notice that we were here too. It made them hear our pleas and read our press to see just what we are doing.

There is only one way to stop riots for good and that is that we be given equal opportunities, equal rights and then there shall be no cause for friction.

Let's Uphold Law And Order

The speed with which Mayor LaGuardia deputized and dispatched all necessary forces and safe-guards about Harlem following the unfortunate clashes there Sunday night, is a tribute to his sense of civic responsibility and fairplay.

AUG 5 1943

Those of us who see in such wild acts of irresponsibility a serious set-back to race relations and a serious threat to our future advance, will deeply regret and deplore what took place. Very properly the Mayor termed the affair not a riot between Negro and white citizens of New York, but the outbreak of passion and irresponsibility by hoodlums. And though participated in by a small band of 'tough guys', the affair brings shame upon the good name of New York as well as the Negro race.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

We cannot be certain that many of the programs advanced by one group or another for the solution for the Negro problem are correct. But of one thing all of us can be certain, rowdiness, violence and hoodlumism is not. The sooner Negroes learn that their cause for advancement and progress is inevitably tied up with the forces of law and order, so soon will they find themselves on the road to greater happiness and fuller cooperation from all sober thinking people. Fortunately, we believe, this attitude is representative of only a small group among us who can make no contribution, either intellectually or socially, to our general advancement.

AUG 5 1943

Mayor LaGuardia's action in naming more than 1200 Negro leaders to deal with the Harlem clashes, is an example of the determination in New York to utilize the influences of all leaders in bringing about harmonious relations. Of course, we could sincerely wish that more cities, South as well as North, would follow such example. They need not wait for some disaster to come before they act. In fact, it is the best way we have always contended, to inspire confidence and respect for the law among Negroes. More and more we are becoming conscious of the lack of many advantages which we feel should be ours by virtue of our cooperation and loyal support to the best traditions of American life. Appointment of police officers, in Negro neighborhoods, is one of these advantages which we seek.

AUG 5 1943

BEHIND THE HARLEM OUTBREAK Guardian

This week's riot in Harlem repeats, with the shrieking clarity of a siren at midnight, an inescapable truth that has been drummed to the American public constantly for years: that it is an utter impossibility to segregate, discriminate against, persecute and brutalize the largest and most important minority group in the nation without engendering a deep resentment and a desire for retaliation that inevitably will take extreme, costly and violent means of expression. Obviously, outbreaks like the Harlem affair, or police massacres like Detroit will settle nothing; they serve only to drive a wedge further between the people of the country, which quite conceivably can make victory over the Axis long and difficult and, even when won, entirely meaningless in any picture of world democracy.

AUG 7 1943

Surely after the expensive lessons of Beaumont, Los Angeles, Mobile, and now Harlem, the course that true American justice should follow must be clear: Carry the Four Freedoms to the world from a country which enjoys them. The establishment of the Four Freedoms here need not be especially hard. ENFORCE the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, even in the benighted South; PROHIBIT Congressional meddling of the type that made the National Labor Relations Board drop its ... session in behalf of three hundred discharged employees of a Kaiser ship-

NEW YORK

Harlem--Concern Of All New York

Daily Worker - New York City

AUG 4 1943

AN EDITORIAL

There is calm in Harlem today. The great Negro community is quietly recovering from the terrible night-mare of forty-eight hours ago.

Five Negro families are mourning their dead. Hundreds are hurt and hundreds more are facing the police courts. The people are deprived of the means of obtaining necessities, as grocery, meat, drug and clothing stores lie in ruins.

To the great majority of Harlem's Negro citizens who had nothing to do with the pillaging and looting, it was a shameful and disgraceful thing. The splendid co-operation extended by many hundreds of these citizens, and particularly by the Negro civic and trade union leaders, to Mayor LaGuardia was responsible for putting an end to it.

Two central facts emerge from the Harlem event:

First, conditions are such that shooting of a Negro soldier by a white policeman and the rumor of his death can touch off such a terrible explosion.

Second, the spirit of tolerance among New York's citizens, both Negro and white, and the high degree of cooperation between the Negro leaders and the city administration, is such that this explosion did not cause wider upheavals of the nature of the Detroit riots.

It is this second factor that gives us the possibility of remedying rapidly the first.

Yesterday we joined in asking support for the Mayor in his untiring efforts to bring about order. We said that the re-establishment of order was the central question of the moment.

AUG 4 1943

Events have proved that we were right. Order has been restored quickly, and the path cleared for the tackling of both the immediate and far-reaching problems regarding the Negro people which must be solved.

First, there is the immediate aftermath of the disturbance itself. The people of Harlem must receive the daily necessities of life. It is up to the city administration, with the aid of various auxiliary organizations and citizens' groups, to see that access to these necessities is furnished.

Many hundreds of Negroes have been arrested, and are facing the local courts. It will do no good to be vindictive. Justice must be tempered with understanding and with common sense.

Many shopkeepers have suffered heavy loss. Some are not insured and are in distress. They should receive some assistance through the city administration.

Thus will the debris of the rioting be cleared away.

The Negro people are bitter at price and rent gouging, worse in Harlem than elsewhere. This bitterness was one of the immediate causes of the looting. Immediate remedial action can and should be undertaken by OPA and the city's Department of Markets to wipe out this gouging.

Beyond the immediate steps taken in Harlem itself, the entire city should swing into action to prevent a recurrence of the rioting and to check all possible friction that may arise from it.

In every community where there are Negroes and whites, friendly and cooperative relations should be established at once. In every white community, there should be spread an understanding of the basis of the Harlem events and the manner of eliminating it.

The responsibility of the entire city must be made clear to every citizen.

Mayor LaGuardia and the City Council directly, and the trade union movement and the city's civic organizations because of an attitude of complacency bear a heavy share of that responsibility. The shameful discrimination against the Negro people in every walk of life, the handicaps under which they live in this great city of ours, are well-known to all of us. They have been exposed time and again, and deplored time and again. Yet no action was taken to remedy them.

AUG 4 1943

Some of the discriminatory practices that weigh upon the Negro people require the aid of the federal government for solution, and the federal government has done considerable to improve the situation.

But there can be no defense for the discriminatory practices to which the Negro boys in the uniform of the United States Army are subjected. Not only are they jim-crowed. They are often insulted, degraded, beaten and even shot at. Some have received such treatment after they have returned from the front where they have earned honors for bravery.

Can you grasp the bitterness and resentment of a Negro mother who has given her son to the nation, only to have him jim-crowed and degraded? It is high time the War and the Navy Department gave this their considered attention.

The citizens of New York must now see that we cannot afford to take our time in wiping out jim-crow and all its manifestations in our city, the greatest in the world. We cannot afford to continue giving the handful of fascists, Ku Kluxers, and other enemies of our democracy the opening through which they can drive their wedge of chaos, intolerance and defeat.

AUG 4 1943

Our trade unions have got to take the lead in this fight to eliminate all economic and social discrimination against our Negro citizens. Some have made a good beginning, particularly within the CIO.

It is because a number of the unions have fought against discrimination in their own ranks that they were able to furnish a Ferdinand Smith to aid the Mayor in quelling the Harlem riot.

Now this must be spread to all unions. Within their ranks they should wipe out every vestige of racism, every practice and every prejudice against fellow citizens because of race or color or religion. And they should take the lead in seeing that this is spread to the entire citizenry.

Let's not tolerate any form of discrimination in this great metropolis of ours. Let's make it a model city, a stronghold of democracy and equality.

Hoodlums' Holiday

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Detailed reports of the Harlem riot received from many sources indicate that it was an orgy of vandalism without reason, without excuse and without defense.

In every way it was a disgraceful performance which helped to confirm many of the [illegible]ely circulated canards

being one of unconcerned Negroes in a ghetto. The attitude of the South that so long as murderers and their victims are colored, it is not important because Negroes are inferior

Negroes arrested for looting, over 125 were found to have been previously arrested or imprisoned, and among the others were delinquents, rowdies, street corner toughs and other underworld characters who are always ready to loot and destroy when the opportunity presents itself.

The fact that these hoodlums paid little or no attention to the Negro leaders who urged them over loud speakers to return to their homes, indicates their lack of respect for anybody, colored or white.

Because there was no race riot, New York daily newspapers assumed a rather indulgent tone—their attitude of unconcern so long as it was hoodlums among themselves. This is apace with the attitude of law enforcement officers in the South that so long as murderers and their victims are colored, it is not important because Negroes are inferior

and vicious anyway, and such conduct is to be expected.

Negroes certainly cannot take that attitude and The Pittsburgh Courier cannot too strongly condemn such disgraceful conduct nor too firmly urge the fullest punishment of those found guilty.

It has been pointed out that there were underlying reasons for this outburst of hooliganism in resentment over mistreatment of Negro soldiers, widespread discrimination against Negro workers, the Red Cross jim crow blood bank, the gouging of landlords and storekeepers, and so forth.

Undoubtedly there is and should be resentment over these evils, but the answer is not to be found in resort to simian vandalism which is as destructive as it is senseless and would not be permitted in Monrovia, Port au Prince or Addis Ababa.

There are peaceful, intelligent and effective methods of coping with these evils which are largely untried or not vigorously pressed because of incompetent leadership and the fact that so many Negro communities are suffering from social indigestion due to overwhelming migration.

It cannot be stressed too often that colored people are not going to get anywhere at all without the goodwill, sympathetic understanding and co-operation of white Americans; and smashing and looting stores to the extent of $5,000,000 damages, injuring law officers and otherwise confirming Negrophobist propaganda is emphatically **not** the way to win friends and influence people.

It Must Not Happen Again!

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

(An Editorial

AS HARLEM RECOVERS from the terrible night of August first, we hear people saying, "Well, thank God it's over. Let's try and forget what happened." That is a natural reaction—one doesn't want to remember a nightmare. But we MUST NOT forget what happened.

"We" means not only Negroes, not only Harlem, but the whole of New York, the whole country, black AND white. Unless all of us learn a lesson from what happened—and remember it—we are in danger of having it happen again and with even more disastrous consequences, if not in New York, then elsewhere.

The six persons killed, the hundreds of wounded, the hundreds more awaiting trial, the enormous property damage—these are the shameful surface manifestations of what happened. We all know what happened was wrong. The Negro leaders who stood vigil with the Mayor that night at once condemned the lawlessness and violence. And fifteen hundred Harlem men and women, the Negro Civilian Committee of 1,500, volunteered the next day to help the police maintain order.

Harlem—whatever the Westbrook Peglers and others may say—is a law-abiding community. Simple hoodlumism does not suddenly swoop through a whole community unless it is planned. And we know that the August first outbreak was not planned or premeditated.

It was an explosion—a blind and violent explosion of resentment against all the injustices and discrimination inflicted upon the Negro people in Harlem and in the nation at large. In 1935 it was the rumor of a boy having been killed that set off the explosion; this time it was the shooting of a soldier.

Unless we—all of us—understand this, we will again sit back complacently as we did in 1935, once "normalcy" has been restored. Complacency now, however, when we need a united nation to carry through to victory, is out of the question. The grievances of the Negro must be eliminated by local, state and federal authorities. Price and rent gouging in Negro communities, discrimination and violence against Negroes in uniform, economic and civil jim-crowism in general must be done away with, for these are the stuff out of which explosions are made.

The elimination of these grievances is a job to be done by all of us, Negro and white, together. There was no RACE riot in Harlem; there need be none. Mayor La Guardia can do a great deal toward guaranteeing that by setting up a committee of responsible Negro and white citizens—no, not to investigate—but to help the city authorities do what we know needs to be done.

At the same time, our federal officials, particularly in Army, Navy and Justice Departments, must take positive steps to stop the treatment of the Negro as a second-class citizen.

This is the lesson of the night of August first. And we cannot afford to let it be forgotten.

editorial

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Hotheads in Harlem

Hotheads in Harlem, who, in a frenzy of unrestrained emotion, ran amuck, have poured no oil on troubled waters. The prepondering majorities of law-abiding American colored people are deeply downcast and humiliated because of the acts of vandalism and disorder committed by their fellowmen a short while ago. They fully realize and understand that sticks and stones, iconoclasm and disorder are not going to solve any problems of race, nor promote peace among disturbed and discordant American groups. But there is not only shame and sorrow for what happened in this curious ghetto, there is also grim determination to get at the source of the disgrace and ferret out the ugly causes.

At first glance, it is patent and obvious that the vicious element of colored people all over the country have been tolerated and indulged for much too long a time. They have defied genteel conventions, flaunted human decency, violated the codes and canons of polite society, and have gone about in disgraceful fashion on a "frolic of their town." They have done these things in the "vice belts" of large cities all over the country. They took the law unto themselves, ridiculed the appeals of good people, and set up veritable reigns of terror wherever they were herded.

They are the bi-product of the roaring twenties. They were permeated with corrupt ideas in the glorification of the gangsters, bootleggers and mobs, who invaded their strongholds, and set up their illegal barter in rotten whiskey, needle beer and human flesh. They saw the gambling rackets thrive and the big-shot flourishing and reveling in ill-gotten gains. They witnessed constituted authority form unholy alliances with crime and the activities of the police, convinced them that they were in league with the moguls and magnates of the underworld. Law and order were disrespected in Harlem, in Chicago, in Kansas City, in Detroit and everywhere the hoodlums held sway. The seeds for disorder were sown. The pendulum that swung in Harlem has been gradually swinging back.

* * *

Wartime hysteria and the transformation fro mthe poverty of the depression to the sudden flow of defense wealth unsteadied those who formerly received relief from the beneficence of the Government. Along with these volcanic changes came the blood and tears of the battle fronts and the surging and mounting hopes for changes in the patterns of life. "Freedom" talk for all the exploited peoples of the world seeped down, even into the soul of the colored hoodlum. When the harrowing realization came that the colored people were still to be indentured even in the armed forces, and the news of the beatings and brutalities heaped on colord men in uniform was broadcast all over the world, then the hoodlum mind in Harlem, already scrambled, twisted and distorted, ran berserk.

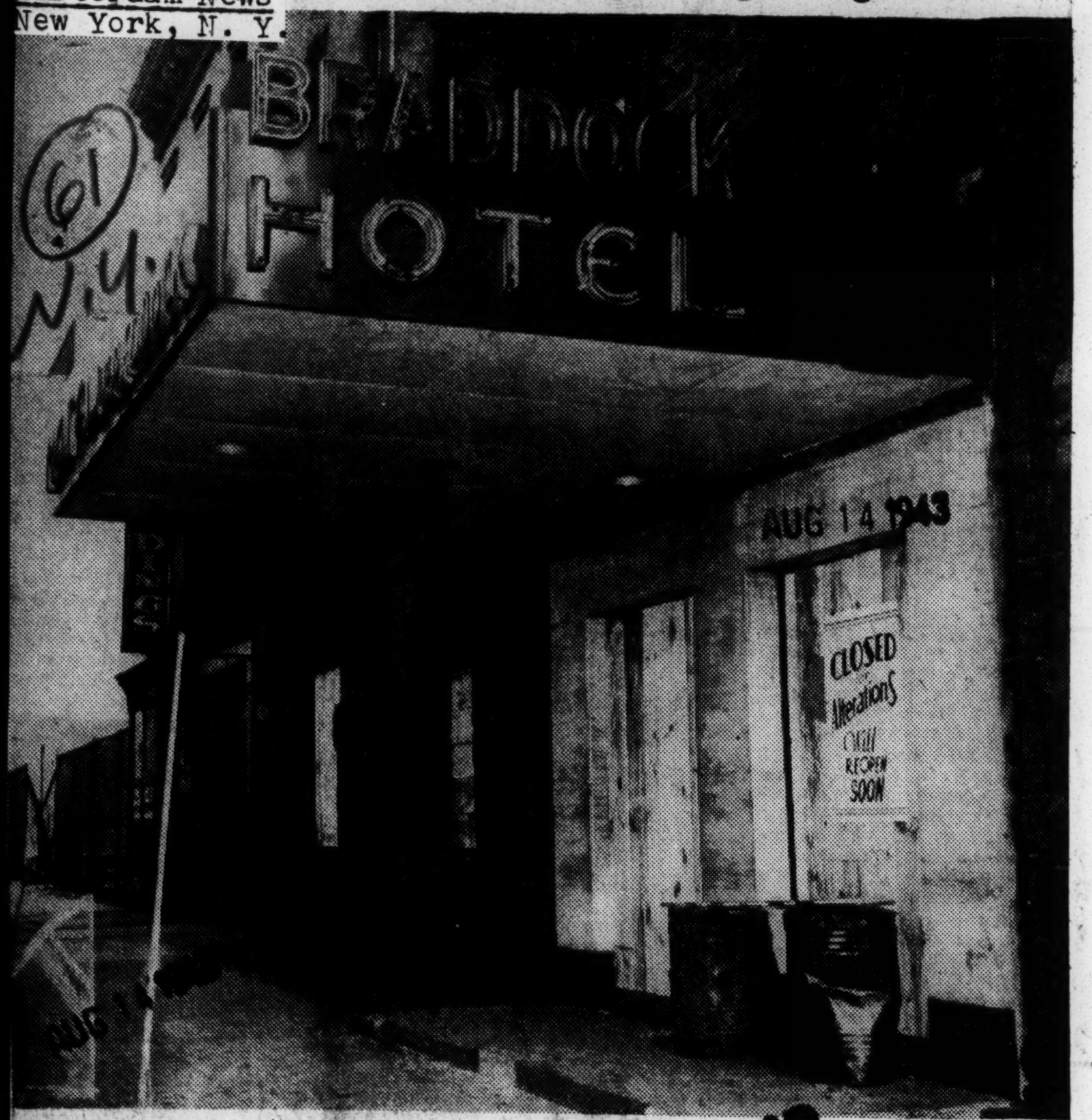
There was no race riot in Harlem, but Harlem and in this favored land have smouldering mass-conflicting emotion and misunderstanding. The order has not spent itself. Mayor LaGuardia ing Pegler have not made a complete ap- a situation. Inte[illegible] colored publishers ears to us that the Axis of [illegible]me-Politics Police must be smashed in all underprivilged It has been further revealed that the press, lightened people of the colored race must e hand in converting the hoodlum element. cannot be permitted to function as it did e further are convinced that the American attle the iniquities notoriously in existence on the colored race. Americans must be respect law and order. The Hotheads in disgraced themselves and both punitive and inflicted on them must be speedily invoked. and measures must be speedily invoked.

61-1943

NEW YORK

Harlem's Recent Riots Had It's Beginning Here

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.



HARLEM DISORDERS HAD ITS BIRTH HERE. Hotel entrance of the recently renovated Hotel Braddock, Eighth Avenue and 126th Street, now closed by the management for 'repairs'. Here was the scene of the shooting of Military Policeman Robert Bandy (off duty at the time) by Patrolman James Collins, white. The shooting, allegedly over the interference of Bandy in the arrest of Margie Polite, 35, was the spark that set off the powder keg resulting in all-night rioting in which five persons lost their lives and hundreds were injured.

OPA First, Now More Action:

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

City-Wide Council of Races Formed To Probe, Wipe Out Riot Causes

The second concrete move towards a better future Harlem, a move growing out of the recent disturbances, took shape this week with the planning of a city-wide council of races to be held within the next two weeks and devoted to definite measures to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

The opening of a local OPA branch to enforce ceiling prices and prosecute violators followed swift on the heels of the strong council of leading in the process of formation over August 1 rioting. The planning of Negro and white citizens has been since the riots. The committee will include leaders of all races and creeds in civic, professional and labor circles of New York.

Marian Anderson Leads

Plans for the conference were initiated by Marian Anderson, world-famous concert contralto; Rabbi Stephen S. Wise; Councilman Stanley Isaacs; Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union; and Dr. Channing H. Tobias, secretary of the national YMCA board.

According to Dr. Tobias, "The city-wide response of support for the conference has gone beyond our expectations, giving evidence that our own awareness of the necessity for such a representative and forward-looking assembly was shared by a considerable section of both races of the community."

Over forty prominent citizens have already agreed to become sponsors; twenty of these met as members of the conference committee, Tuesday afternoon, at 4 p.m., at the YMCA Board Room.

Prominent Committee

In addition to the five initiators, they were: Arthur Upham Pope, Dr. George E. Haynes, Dr. Max Yergan, Father George Ford, Rev. John H. Johnson, Saul Mills, Father Shelton H. Bishop, Congressman Vito Marcantonio, Rabbi Michael Alper, William Agar, J. H. Carpenter, Lillian Hellman and Adam Clayton Powell, jr.

Also Henry Craft, George Marshall, Cecilia Cabaniss Saunders, Jack [illegible], Osmond Fraenkel, Edward Lewis, Leonard Govello, John T. McManus, Benjamin J. Davis, jr., and Theodore Jackson.

Judge Anna Kross, Bishop James K. Humphrey.

Additional sponsors are Benny Goodman, Babette Deutsch, Rev. Thomas S[illegible], David DeSola Poole, Ferdinand C. Smith, Rev. Wm. Howard Melish, Guy Emory Shipler, Juan Corretjer, Dr.

AUG 28 1943

Polite Woman Sentenced To Medical Prison

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NEW YORK — (ANP) — An unexpected flood of oratory by a marine staff sergeant last week in special sessions court was accredited with freeing a Negro marine being tried for tentative burglary and general larceny as an outgrowth of the Harlem riots August 1.

AUG 16 1943

The marine defendant was was George Lee, 22, who also faces military trial for being AWOL from his outfit and shedding his uniform during the disturbances. He was taken into custody by Det. Terance Rogers, who said he was caught in the act of looting a store in Lenox Avenue.

AUG 16 1943

Rogers was testifying against the prisoner when the marine sergeant, Joseph F. Mullane, asked permission to address the bench. He declared:

RECENTLY INDUCTED

"This defendant recently was inducted into the marines, and we'd like to have him back. He is physically perfect for service and a good marine. He was a longshoreman when he joined us. Although he is recorded in our files as being absent without leave, he has not yet been classed as a deserter.

"If you place him on trial, convict him and place him in prison, he automatically will become a deserter. Then, if he is found guilty by the marine corps on that charge, he will be liable to be sentenced to be shot by a firing squad, because our country is at war."

Justices Frederick L. Hackeburg Justices Frederick L. Hackenburg, Alfred J. Hoffman and George B. DeLucca conferred with Livingston Goddard, assistant prosecuting attorney, then asked the sergeant what punishment would be meted out to the marine if released.

FACES AWOL CHARGES

"Well," replied Mullane, "he'll be placed on trial merely for being absent without leave, and if found guilty, is liable to be placed on bread and water for fifteen days and lose a month's pay."

"Whew" said Justice Hackenburg. "That's worse than giving him a three-month workhouse term."

After another conference with his colleagues, Hackenburg announced the court has reduced the charge to unlawful entry and petit larceny, but also has dismissed them."

WOMAN SENTENCED

In another action in felony court Miss Margie Polite, 35, one of two women charged with creating a disturbance in the lobby of the notorious Braddock hotel that led to the altercation between MP Robert Dancy and a patrolman, was ordered committed to the medical institution for treatment. Miss Polite has been in the house of detention since her arraignment with Mrs. Florine Roberts, 40, a registered nurse, who is the mother of Dancy. She was charged with aiding her son attack the officer, an act that resulted in Dancy being shot in the shoulder. He has since been turned over to military authorities.

Magistrate Aurello, upon discovery that Mrs. Roberts had not appeared for hearing, threatened to forfeit her bond of $1,000 which he [illegible]

AUG 28 1943

NCE again the Legal Harlem grievously demonstrated that the Legal cause and fundamentally. As we have pointed out before, the recarious tension which superficial observer the sion less intense today military and civil police

The Harlem Bee

Disturbance.

Chicago, Ill.

What are we going to do about it? Are we going to do something about treating the disgraceful conditions that more than match the disgraceful results?

Objective social clinicians who have earnestly concerned themselves with "what ails us," have in substance set down the following findings:

(1) Negro soldiers and civilians alike are highly incensed over the disgraceful treatment accorded to soldiers and other members of our armed services.

(2) The propagandists have profited by our nation's long indurated practice of racialism and are using it to diabolical effect.

(3) Negroes are too hemmed into limited areas in our crowded centers; this breeds angry resentment, eternal restlessness, intense tension and often anti-social attitudes.

(4) Job segregation and inferior accommodations extend the tension surrounding home life into the area of their jobs.

(5) Inferior recreational and transportation facilities in many centers add further fuel for irritation and easy misunderstanding.

(6) Finally and very importantly, there is a minority element of incorrigibles of both groups who block the progress of interracial understanding.

The details of the Harlem disturbance are in sum an epitome of the above. We are now in the tertiary stage of these affairs, and only quick, effective remedial action will stay the widespread recurrance of the riot "infection."

vate conference. I wonder whether the War Dept. in Washington, whose discrimination policy in the Army was a weighty factor in the riot, has been giving any thought to the problem. If so, it is a strictly military secret.

What's Been Done?

And what's been *done* about Harlem, let alone the mere thinking thereof?

Boards have replaced gaping holes in Harlem's store fronts. In a few places, glaziers got in their licks. The extra policemen are gone and the litter moved away. The OPA has opened a branch office (it got 500 complaints the first week, and thousands more are on the way). Looters have been sentenced, others freed. Some slightly broken heads have been mended. And storekeepers have restocked their shelves within the limits imposed by their financial losses and the general scarcity of merchandise.

And what *hasn't* been done in these 19 days?

Well, I haven't heard anything from Washington about eliminating Jim Crow in the Army, have you? Or even giving him a little nudge, the tiniest little push, like an order guaranteeing bus transportation, not seats, just transportation—for Negro soldiers on furlough from southern camps. Or seeing to it that they can go into a store in the nearest town to buy themselves a coke on a hot day.

A Volunteer Unit

All right. So the War Dept. which can engineer the conquest of Sicily finds the cross-roads storekeepers at Social Circle, Ga., too tough a nut to crack. What about the idea of a volunteer mixed Army unit? No one who didn't want to join this unit would be forced into it. Congressman Joe Rankin's son, or nephew, or cousin, or whoever he has in the Army, wouldn't have to join. It would just be for plain Americans without fancy notions, just a bunch of guys ready to call anybody buddy who is fighting on their side.

No, I haven't heard anything out of Washington about a mixed unit.

What about the Red Cross and the blood bank? Have you heard anything about the Red Cross, one of the greatest and most powerful organizations of the country, backtracking an inch from its preposterous blood segregation policy—a policy based on the same kind of science which tells you that appendicitis comes from swallowing orange pits? Not that the Red Cross believes this antediluvian hogwash, the Rankins do, and that's tough for the distinguished Norman Davis.

The Mayor's Report

And what about that famous report of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem, the one that was written not 19 days ago, but eight years ago? That's the report which talks about the Police Dept., Harlem housing, high rents, high prices, poor quality merchandise, lack of recreational facilities, overcrowded and poorly equipped schools and dozen of other things. Has this report been formally issued by the Mayor, or formally commented upon, or formally acted upon? Not that I know of.

Of course, Harlem and the whole question of race relations is a very complicated problem. And perhaps you think my choice of things we haven't done has been a bit whimsical, putting the blood bank question, for instance, above local Harlem issues. But it isn't whimsical at all. I spent the day in Harlem yesterday, talking to a lot of people who *haven't* forgotten Sunday, Aug. 1. And what I've set down here is what's uppermost in the minds of the people I've talked to, and in roughly that order.

Nineteen days is a very short time, of course, for doing very much. But it is a very *long* time *not* to have done anything. We are now 19 days nearer the next outbreak in Harlem.

—Victor H. Bernstein

OPINION

PM
New York, N. Y.

19 Days Ago

It is so easy to forget.

How many people have thought about the Harlem riot recently? It happened so long ago. Nineteen days ago, in fact. Since then Sicily has fallen, Churchill and FDR have met in Canada, the Russians broken through at Orel and Belgorod, and Barnaby and O'Malley have found the treasure and eaten it all up.

I wonder, for instance, whether Mayor La Guardia has been thinking about Harlem. If so, he's given no hint of it. I wonder whether Police Commissioner Valentine has had any constructive ideas on the subject. If so, he's still in very pri-

The Watchtower

By Roy Wilkins

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE RIOT in New York: The man who wrote in answer to a questionnaire: "The darkies are getting ahead too fast with Eleanor's help. They are advancing before they are ready, trying to act like men when they are only children."



Mr. Wilkins

The druggist who complained that wholesale houses would not deliver goods to his store, and that some others would not even accept the orders returning the paper stock because of conditions in Harlem."

The white woman on the bus telling her neighbor, "I didn't look at the sign, but I hope this bus does not go through Harlem."

The man who owned a store property and wrote: I am the injured party, not the Negroes. My tenant had a stock of $15,000 stolen and he is bankrupt and nearly crazy. Such doings do not make any sympathy for the Negro race."

"What's The Matter With People?"

The colored man who said he lost an overcoat, a topcoat, and his wife three dresses from a cleaning shop. "They didn't do anything to white people," he said. "They robbed us."

The girl who went to her job and had her good white co-worker say: "What's the matter with the people in Harlem? They may be sore, but is that the way to act?"

The crude and rough-talking colored girl on a Fifth Avenue bus who told "to shut up and cuss out" a white woman who objected to be pushed in the back by a big heavy pocketbook.

The small gang of Negroes who surrounded a white man on the 125th Street subway station platform because he objected (as do all New Yorkers) to a subway guard closing the door to a train before he could squeeze in. The guard happened to be colored and the gang wanted to make a racial argument out of it.

The two teen-age boys who climbed on the running board of a taxi driven by a white man and asked in belligerant tones, "What did you say to us?" when the taxi driver had not opened his mouth.

The gloating editorials from some southern daily papers saying, in effect: "We know how to handle Negroes. The North does not. If you give them any freedom at all, they get out of hand. The only way to handle them is to keep them in their place by force."

Did the riot do any good? A young fellow in a zoot suit and a zoot hat yelled at me August 2: "I bet they will pay attention to this in Washington!"

System of Repression At Fault

They will pay attention, all right, but the question is: "What kind of attention?" The Negroes who have to deal with people in power are meeting a cold front. Many do not even wish to discuss the Negro question. The process of getting attention for real grievances, justifiable complaints, is made difficult by wild behavior of the people who have just cause for yelling.

Of course white people are at fault. Of course the whole system of repression and cruelty is at fault. But we have to take a good, honest look at ourselves. We aren't angels either. The white man must make concessions, but we must also. We can't win with profane, obscene and loud language, nor with crude behavior. While we fight for our rights, we have got to "straighten out and fly right."

Harlem Communists Did Their Share In Restoring Order During Riot

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

AUG 17 1943

AUG 17 1943

AUG 17 1943

AUG 17 1943

By Eugene Gordon

The Communist Party was a strong, steady, sure and trusted influence during the riots of Harlem during the recent outbreak there.

The strength of the Communist Party was felt, even when its members, as such, were unknown among the crowds. There was, for instance, this incident. The Daily Worker was lying on a newsstand at 125th St. and Lenox Ave. Many persons believe that this paper is the official organ of the Communist Party, although it is not.)

"You get the Daily News?" a man asked the paper seller.

"No. Just the Herald Tribune and the Daily Worker. That's a good paper," pointing at the Daily Worker.

"You're telling me," the man said. "Any paper that stands up for the common man is all right with me. That's what this paper does."

I followed him when he walked away without having bought the Daily Worker.

"I'm curious. You praised 'that Communist paper,' but you didn't buy it. You wanted the Daily News. Why?"

He waved his hand.

"I know what the Communists are going to say. They're on MY side. What I want to know now is what these s-o-b's are going to say."

CP SOUND TRUCK

Audley Moore, chairman of speakers on a sound truck moving up and down Seventh Ave. Monday night, is known everywhere as a Communist.

Ben Davis, executive secretary of the Upper Harlem section, along with Rose Gaulden, administrative secretary; Audley Moore, section organizer, and other well-known Communists, were either in the streets almost continuously or in Party headquarters at 200 W. 135th St., during those troublous hours.

Charles Lowman, a youngster whose understanding of the people and of the Party's role among them has done much to increase its prestige in Harlem, remained throughout Sunday night at the Party phone with Miss Gaulden.

MOBILIZE PEOPLE

As soon as the outbreak became known Sunday evening the Communist Party began mobilizing its membership. Having done that, it got in touch immediately with the community's leading citizens. Both Communists and non-Communists phoned Communist headquarters to find out what was happening and what they could do to help.

"Order must be restored, first of all," Rose Gaulden and Charles Lowman answered. **"The people must be calmed."**

The thought must have occurred to every member during those hours that he had always been taught his Party was the people's true leader in a crisis. Here, then, was that crisis. And he, himself, was the Party. What should he do?

The answer is coming to light now. Individual Communists, far away from the Party headquarters, simply merged with the crowds. They went among people who, blind with fury against a host of wrongs, were likewise deaf to entreaties. These Communists knew that, as the outburst were showing themselves, they were not anti-white. These Communists knew that it was their responsibility to prevent the outbreak from becoming a "race riot."

They kept on the alert also for rumors; they counteracted rumors.

Rose Gaulden, in Party headquarters, made quarterly-hour calls to the Harlem Hospital. She had been employed there for 18 years as a nurse. She checked on the number of injured being brought in. She checked repeatedly with the Suydenham Hospital on the condition of the soldier whose wounding by a policeman had set off the avalanche.

NEWS TO SOUND TRUCK

She transmitted to the sound trucks all news that he was still alive and improving. This news pacified the crowd.

The Communist Party members acted, wherever they found themselves, to restore order and calm. Its leadership cooperated with the leaders of other organizations.

The enemy of the Negro people in the meantime, was at work. Rumor-mongers were in their heaven. A section of the subversive press—notably the Wo[illegible] Telegram—whose function from year to year is to rub salt into the raw wounds of the Negro people, falsely said on Tuesday that the Communists **caused** the outbreak.

The Communist Party, after order was partially restored, joined other responsible organizations in Harlem in planning a program for immediate action. That program, first of all, looked to complete restoration of order and calm among the people. The program, in the second place, looked to remedying those evils which lie at the bottom of life in Harlem and which, until they are remedied, may cause further outbreaks.

Ben Davis, the Communist, tells how further outbreaks can be avoided. He says:

Out of the fight to defeat this danger hanging over our city should come an inter-racial council of city officials, labor and all minority people, a closer unity of Negroes and whites around a constructive program for Harlem; a firm determination to make our city a fortress of equality and democracy for all citizens—an example of the four freedoms for which we are fighting.

AUG 1 1943

Bystander

New York (ANP) — An expected flood of oratory by a marine staff sergeant last week in special sessions court was accredited with freeing a Negro marine being tried for tentative burglary and grand larceny as an outgrowth of the Harlem riots on Aug. 1.

Des Moines, Iowa

The marine defendant was George Lee, 22, who also faces military trial for being AWOL from his outfit and shedding his uniform during the disturbances. He was taken into custody by Det. Perance Rogers who said he was caught in the act of looting a store in Lenox Avenue.

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Rogers was testifying against the prisoner when the marine sergeant, Joseph F. Mullane, asked permission to address the bench. He declared:

"This defendant recently was inducted into the marines, and we'd like to have him back. He is physically perfect for service and a good marine. He was a longshoreman when he joined us. Although he is recorded in our files as being absent without leave, he has not yet been classed as a deserter.

AUG 21 1943

White Shopkeepers' Side of Harlem Riot

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Answers to AFRO Queries Indicate Some Merchants Believe Outbreak Was Planned for Week End When They Were Absent; Stores with Colored Help Not Damaged; Many Storekeepers Carry No Insurance; Plan to Sue City

By RICHARD R. DIER

NEW YORK — Contradicting Mayor LaGuardia's statement that the Harlem riot was no organized movement, but just mob eruption, white storekeepers feel that it involved careful planning and was timed to explode at the proper moment.

The fight between Pvt. Robert Bandy, MP, and Patrolman James Collins was the spark needed to set off the flame. They believe the timing was perfect. Sunday night when stores are closed and storekeepers away, and when Harlem has very little police protection.

One storekeeper went so far as to say positively that the soldier was put up to start the incident with a white policeman as a signal to riot. When I questioned him as to whether he had any information, he replied that he didn't, but that he was sure of it anyway.

Condemns LaGuardia

This man, who did not give his name, is the owner of a gift and novelty store at 104 West 125th Street. He bitterly condemned Mayor LaGuardia for soft-soaping the colored people in Harlem by not allowing policemen to use their guns and clubs as they thought necessary, and accused the Mayor of playing politics by ordering Commissioner Valentine's men to use their arms only in self-defense. He said that in view of the amount of destruction done in such a short time, he could not help but believe that Harlem hoodlums and some irresponsible adults had been planning this for many weeks.

Segregation of colored persons in the armed forces and their mistreatment in the South, he said, may have been contributing factors.

"What makes you say that?" I asked.

Get Revenge

"Well," he replied, "It's because they get pent-up with bad feeling against white people and when they get home on furlough, they just look for a chance to take it out on whomever they can. In this case who could be easier and nearer to strike at than the white storekeepers whom they feel are against their race for many things that happened in the past?"

"Just what things happened in the past?" I asked.

He said he would rather not talk about it.

"Does your statement mean, then, that you feel this was a race riot?" I asked.

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"To some degree, it was," he replied. "The young boys smashed the windows and the older people looted the stores. They worked together and did a fast and thorough job Sunday night and early Monday morning."

"What can you propose as a solution to prevent a recurrence in the future?" I queried.

Police Protection

"I think that Harlem must have adequate police protection at all times, including Sunday night when stores are closed. If this is not done, the rioters will feel that they scored a victory and that the cops are afraid of them. This will lead to more riots and Harlem will be doomed."

He said his store suffered several hundred dollars' worth of damage. His windows were completely smashed and part of his stock was looted. A fire started by the hoodlums in the Rainbow Music Shop, next to his, had burned through the wall into his

Should Draft Rioters

He was also of the firm conviction that the riot was planned and its sign saysadults and young hoodlums who which is smashed and burned clear through from one end to the other. A sign on what used to be

proof of this and he knew only what he had heard from most white storekeepers.

He said, "It might be a good thing if the hoodlums who were arrested were drafted into the army for their own good and for the good of Harlem.

"Only adequate police protection can prevent the same occurrence within a few years," he declared. "That is up to Mayor LaGuardia. If he intends to smooth the whole thing over, then it will happen again. If it does, then many storekeepers will go out of business because they won't have the money to repair the damage. Most Harlem businessmen have been existing on the skin of their teeth anyway, and some will probably give up their business now after what's happened."

Had No Insurance

"Haven't you people any burglary or riot insurance?" I asked.

"Some of the big stores like Howard's and Crawford's Clothing stores have, but we poor storekeepers can barely meet our rent and can't afford the high cost of insurance."

"Have you any way you can get back some money for the damages done? I see that both your windows have been smashed. Was your store looted, too?"

"I intend to sue the city too," Mr. Peters replied, "But I know it's hopeless. It takes too long to collect if you do collect at all. I had many pairs of glasses for my customers locked up in a showcase and hoodlums even broke the case and destroyed the glasses. Some of my best customers, respectable colored people, came in and apologized for the actions of their people. They said they were terribly sorry for what happened and sympathized for my loss."

"Doesn't that show," I asked him, "that this was not a race riot? Isn't it true that colored storekeepers suffered losses from the riot?"

Not Sorry

"Yes," he said, "but somehow I don't believe that even the people who came in and apologized really felt sorry for me. I thinkly that in their hearts they're glad it happened."

The next place I visited was a wine and liquor store at 315 Lenox Avenue. The owner, Mr. Kaplan, a heavy-set man of 50, said that he had been at that location for nine years. He employs 5 colored clerks and 1 white clerk. Mr. Kaplan says he is very satisfied with his colored help. When asked about the Harlem riot, he appeared afraid to answer and commit himself. He said that he believed that hoodlums and excited adults were responsible. He felt it was luck that no damage was done to his store and was willing to let it go at that.

From there I spoke to the proprietors of two drug stores, a jewelry store, a fruit store, a delicatessen, an orangeade store, and a newspaper stand.

The majority were convinced that the riot was planned in advance but not one of them could explain how this fitted in with the fight between Pvt. Bandy and Patrolman Collins.

Virtual Armed Camp

Despite newspaper reports that peace was again reigning in Harlem, I found it to be a virtual armed camp with policemen and soldiers swarming all over each other. There are colored military policemen at every subway exit examining the credentials of service men. It certainly isn't a healthy situation and it isn't doing the colored population any good.

Most of all, it offers no solution to the cause of riots. No white storekeeper mentioned the real underlying factor—namely, discrimination against colored people in almost every walk of life.

I have come away from Harlem with the conclusion that despite the fact that white storekeepers are prone to admit it, they are in accord with the belief that the riot was a race riot. Also, they are set against the colored people in their conviction that the riot was planned and organized against their property.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Harlem Is Quiet; Police Investigate

NEW YORK — (SNS) — It was all quiet on the Harlem front Tuesday as authorities investigated Monday's bloody riot which resulted in six deaths, more than 500 injuries, 500 arrests and an estimated $5,000,000 in property damage.

Police stood guard over the thickly populated district to prevent recurrence of fighting, looting, arson and robbery.

Eight thousand New York State Guardsmen backed up the police. The Guardsmen assembled at their armories Monday night in readiness to enter the debris-littered area should the disturbances break out again.

A volunteer civilian patrol of 1,500 residents, mostly Negroes, helped keep the peace. City patrol units, military police and air raid wardens were on guard.

At 10:30 p. m. curfew imposed by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia kept virtually all of the district's 300,000 residents indoors all night. And for the first time in months lights in Harlem shown brightly as the Army permitted suspension of dim-out regulations to help police keep order.

Only one incident was reported Monday night. Five youths were arrested for throwing a stone through a store window.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said the police sabotage squad was investigating reports that hoodlums from Southern cities had been sent into Harlem to cause trouble. Police have not been able to confirm these reports, the Commissioner said.

Harlem Riot Due to Abuse Of Soldiers

Washington Tribune

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The widespread resentment among all classes of Negro citizens to the treatment their men have been receiving in the Army was one of the principal contributing factors to the disorders in Harlem on night of August 1, according to Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, in a letter to Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War. Washington, D. C.

The spark which touched off the Harlem riot and looting spree was a report that a Negro soldier had been shot and killled by a white policeman. The report was not true because the soldier was only slightly wounded, but the mere report, with the background of mistreatment of Negro soldiers elsewhere in the country, was sufficient to touch off the destructive rampage which did five million dollars' worth of damage.

Harlem Riot Investigation Brings 10-Point Program

PM
New York, N. Y.

Committee Cites the Inequalities Suffered by The Negroes

PM

The Citizens' Committee on Better Race Relations, formed to investigate the causes behind the Harlem riot, today released its findings and issued a 10-point platform of recommendations to prevent further disorders.

The riot, which streaked through Harlem the night of Aug. 1, leaving in its wake five dead, several hundred injured and estimated property damage of $5,000,000, was termed by the Committee a "social explosion," brought on by the ever-present problems of isolation, segregation and discrimination facing the Negro almost everywhere in this country.

As the Committee phrases it:

¶"In the distressed imaginations of Negroes who know the humiliation of second-class citizenship, all of the inequalities imposed by the Federal Government in the armed services, in political, civil and social life, burst forth with what was not just hooliganism or vandalism, but a violent and surging protest—actually a sort of revolution of the common man."

The Rumor

The Committee, formed by 60 Negro leaders, points out it is significant in the midst of a war for freedom that the spark that flared and caused the outbreak centered around "a Negro soldier has been shot by a white policeman!"

The Committee went on record as condemning this social explosion, while at the same time regretting that America should permit the kind of social conditions which make such an explosion possible.

Many on the Committee believe that the Harlem riot perhaps will make it possible for Negro leaders to reach the ear of Federal, State and City officials, to get these officials to listen to, and put into effect, recommendations which Negro leaders and community agencies have been attempting to get acted upon for years.

10 Recommendations

To that end, the Committee makes these 10 recommendations in the interest of better race relations in the Harlem community:

¶ That the Mayor call upon the President to issue a national proclamation abolishing segregation, discrimination and Jim Crowism in the armed forces and in the Government everywhere.

¶ That the President issue an order calling on the Red Cross to discontinue its Jim Crow blood bank forthwith.

¶ That the Mayor appoint two Negroes, one as a member of the Board of Education, the other to serve on the Executive Administration staff of the Board of Education.

¶ That the Mayor appoint a Negro as one of his ranking secretaries.

¶ That the Mayor appoint a Negro Deputy Police Commissioner.

¶ That the Mayor confer with the merchants of Harlem, the Markets Dept. and the Office of Price Administration on correcting the wide differentials existing in quality and quantity of foodstuffs and other commodities sold in Harlem.

¶ That the Mayor appoint a Negro to the Administrative Staff of the City War Council to co-ordinate the Civilian Defense activities of the Council in Relation to Negro Participation.

¶ That the Mayor appoint a Commission on Race Relations consisting of representatives of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities, and that this Commission be empowered to accept and consider recommendations to better race relations in the city.

¶ That the number of playstreets and playgrounds be increased in Harlem.

¶ That the City acquire buildings in Harlem for indoor musical concerts, skating rinks, dancing and other recreational activities.

Committee Members

Formation of the Committee originally was called for by A. Philipine Myers, Julius C. Thomas, Frank Randolph. Other prominent Negro leaders of the group include: Mrs. Anna Arnold Hedgman, Shelton Hale Bishop, Mable K. Staupers, Aldrich Tuner, Daughty, Dolly Lowther, Noah C. A. Walters, Mrs. Helen Curtis, Wilfred Kerr, Hexton Hardin, E. Paul-

Crosswaith, Eloise Bishop Teacher, Charles C. Berkley, Edith Ransom, C. B. Powell, B. F. McLauren, George E. Haynes, Vivian C. Mathews, Helenson and Dr. Laurence M. Ervin.

N. Y. Times Comments On Harlem Outbreak

AUG 13 1943

The powerful and influential New York Times makes a searching analysis of the outbreak in Harlem in an editorial published in the Tuesday, Aug. 3, issue. The opinions expressed are so nearly the sentiment of sound-thinking Negroes that The Call publishes it in full:

Call
Kansas City, Mo.

HARLEM'S TRAGEDY

Mayor La Guardia was correct in the literal meaning of his words when he said that the disturbances which began in Harlem Sunday night were "not a race riot."

There were no clashes between gangs of different races. But every one knows that there would have been no trouble in Harlem if race feeling in that district had not been tense. The rioters who looted stores and attacked police were a very small minority of Negroes in a large and race-conscious Negro community.

Behind that situation were generations of history of which the white man as well as the Negro is a victim.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said truthfully that there is "a great difference here from the conditions in Detroit." One difference lies in the prompt and more effective action of the Mayor and the police.

We do not suppose Mr. White meant to justify, without investigation, every act of every policeman on duty in Harlem. It must be clear, however, that Mayor La Guardia and Police Commissioner Valentine intend to deal with lawbreaking in Harlem as they would with lawbreaking elsewhere, without discrimination except against the lawbreakers themselves.

No friend of the Negro will defend the Harlem rioters. The overwhelming majority of Harlem's law-abiding people, who are as good and useful citizens as can be found anywhere, do not defend them.

We do have to ask, as we have to ask in instances of white hoodlumism, what produces such outbreaks. Immediate cause for it can be found in a sense of grievance, fanned into flame by sinister agitators, in lies deliberately spread, in an ignorance that might be diminished if white people in this city took a more friendly interest in the welfare of the newer additions to our Negro population.

Some of the ultimate causes have been explored again and again. Bad and costly housing, lack of recreational facilities, the failure to give equal economic opportunities—these things corrupt the weak and unstable among the Negro population just as they do among other varieties of population. Hoodlumism is not racial.

To say this is not to say that it doesn't have to be suppressed. It does have to be, and primarily for the safety and welfare of the good people of Harlem itself.

When this has been done we should have an inquiry participated in by the Negroes and white people who for a long time have been working for a better understanding—and so quietly that their names seldom appear in the newspapers. Can the police system in Harlem be improved? Can more Negro policemen be appointed? In deputizing Negroes to patrol the streets yesterday Mayor La Guardia recognized the significance of such appointments.

We cannot wipe out race prejudice or race jealousy in a day, among masses of people. But the individual citizen can go far in wiping those emotions out of his own heart. He can recognize that this is everybody's duty, not the white man's, not the Negroes', not any one race's city. He can learn the lesson that if there is discrimination against any one on account of race or religion, then no one is secure. He can practice on his own account, courtesy and fair play. We are all neighbors in these five boroughs, and much dependent on each other. The wise citizen knows this and the good citizen acts accordingly.

Debris Litters Streets After Looting of Stores

World-Telegram
AUG 2 1943
New York, N. Y.

Liquor Shops And Groceries

NEW YORK

Targets in Raids

Harlem was tense today, with an unnatural quiet emphasized by the tinkling of broken glass and the intermittent ringing of burglar alarms. The streets were mostly empty save for police patrol cars, army trucks and jeeps, and wherever little knots of people became too large, police and army MP's told them to move on.

In an area from 110th St. to 134th St., including the main north-south arteries of Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Aves., the sidewalks and gutters were littered with mounds of debris and loot. Beside a pile of smashed watermelons and discarded refuse lay suits of clothing, furs and canned goods.

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Liquor Stores a Target.

On Eighth Ave., from 110th St. north, scarcely a store had escaped damage at the hands of the looters. Liquor stores, groceries and clothing stores were special targets of the gangs.

Corner establishments, predominantly bars, were smashed without exception, with their doors missing and counters and shelves swept clear of merchandise.

In front of a garage at 225 St. Nicholas Ave., a broken cash register lay in the street, its parts scattered for 50 feet up and down the thoroughfare. After taking the cash register, a gang started for the garage and the 50 cars stored in it, according to the owner, A. Abel.

"We stood them off, thank God," he said.

AUG 2 1943

Police Collect Loot.

As Department of Sanitation trucks entered the region, and individual shop owners began making repairs of the countless smashed windows and doors, police continued to round up loot and dump it at stations where identification will be attempted later.

One man was seen carrying a 15-foot roll of linoleum through the streets, the police said. Others were found carting off heavy tables and chairs taken from the Horn Furniture Co. at 254 W. 116th St. The Lederer Hardware Store at 121st St. and Eighth Ave. was completely emptied by the looters.

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Many of the stores throughout the area displayed hastily lettered signs reading "Colored." In most cases these were unharmed.

Dairy stores, too, largely escaped damage but one at 2174 Eighth Ave., which displayed a large beer sign, was stripped.

Between 123rd and 124th Sts. of Eighth Ave. not a single shop window remained intact. Umbrellas, shoes, suits of clothing and other loot was piled in one place six feet high, with a Red Grange "77" doll topping the mound.

A. Philip Randolph Deplores Violence

Call
AUG 13 1943
Kansas City, Mo.

NEW YORK — A Philip Randolph made the following statement on the Harlem riot:

"I view the outburst of violence in Harlem Sunday night with great sorrow and distress. As a resident of this community for some 30 years and the head of two important movements, one a trade union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, affiliated with the A. F. of L. and the other a civic organization, the March on Washington Movement, I am gravely concerned about our people in the Harlem community demonstrating their capacity in cooperation with Mayor LaGuardia's law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order.

"No minority group can survive and go progressively forward where there is no law and order. Violence and bloodshed is not the road to racial peace and cooperation and community racial advancement. Violence begets violence, bloodshed begets bloodshed and always the minority groups are the chief victims.

"Negroes must stand up and fight for their constitutional and economic rights with the ballot, constructive agitation, education through moral religious labor organizations and all means lawful and orderly, of social protest.

"I know I can speak for 99 per cent of the great mass of Negroes of Harlem that we are definitely and unqualifiedly opposed to all forms of hoodlumism, the destruction of property, the attack upon shopkeepers and any disregard for law enforcements.

"Now, as the representative of the aforementioned organizations, I want to urge upon the Mayor the immediate appointment of a Commission on Race to study the causes of this social and racial explosion in the Harlem community and the basic causes of racial riots that are sweeping the country and threatening various communities.

"We need a thorough and uncompromising investigation of the question of housing, recreational facilities, educational opportunities, employment problems, and the whole question of the participation or lack of participation on the part of the Negro in our economic, political and social life as equals with other citizens.

AUG 13 1943

Face Facts

"Although this is a period of racial tension, it is well for us frankly and fearlessly to face the fact that this outbreak of disorder in Harlem is merely a symptom of a deep chronic disease of racial segregation, discrimination and injustice to the Negro people.

"The remedy for this problem is not looting stores and abusing and attacking white citizens or condemning Negroes as vicious and reckless vandals, but it lies in sound and constructive racial cooperation.

"It is unfortunate that the policeman shot a Negro soldier which served as a fuse to light an already existing racial magazine which was ready for explosion. If it had not been the shooting of the Negro soldier, it might have been something else.

"The important thing is that the racial magazine of economic and social dynamite is here and it is a result of a long series of social, economic and political injustices heaped upon the Negro people.

"All Negroes of Harlem are grateful for the prompt action of the Mayor in mobilizing the police of the city to handle this serious situation and we commend the police for their obvious restraint and sense, and fine cooperation in helping to keep the peace."

NAACP Informs War Department That Riot Occurred Because Of Soldier Brutality

AUG 13 1943
The
New York, N. Y.

The widespread resentment among all classes of Negro citizens to the treatment their men have been receiving in the Army was one of the principal contributing factors to the disorders in Harlem on the night of August 1, according to Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, in a letter to Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

The spark which touched off the Harlem riot and looting spree was a report that a Negro soldier had been shot and killed by a white policeman. The reports were not true because the soldier was only slightly wounded but the mere report, with the background of mistreatment of Negro soldiers elsewhere in the country, was sufficient to touch off destructive rampage which cost five million dollars' worth of damage. The N.A.A.C.P. letter said:

"It was the fury born of repeated unchecked unpunished, and often unrebuked shooting, maiming, and insulting of Negro troops, particularly in the southern states," which [illegible] disorders by them to the

The letter also cited the killing by Mr. White in his letter on the subsequent reports this matter, despite the pleas of the War department were cited to the home folks.

War Department To Act

Raymond Carr at Alexandria, Louisiana, in November, 1942 by a civilian policeman. "Mr. Secretary, we fear, and we are not alone in that fear, that unless the War and Justice Department muster courage enough to handle this situation

without gloves, other trouble may ensue born of the sense of frustration and resentment bordering on despair among Negroes. We, therefore, take the liberty of asking and urging you and the Attorney General, both of whom we know to be shocked by the coldblooded mistreatment of Negro soldiers, to confer immediately and to work out an affirmative and uncompromising program of action."

The N.A.A.C.P. suggested to Secretary Stimson, "that any and every criminal act, large or small, against a Negro soldier be acted upon immediately and without compromise."

The second suggestion of the N.A.A.C.P. was that the War department authorize a mixed division of white and colored troops saying, "all of the evils to which we have referred grow out of the segregation policy of the United States government."

The letter asserted that many white Americans, including southern whites, have expressed their desire to serve in such a division. The letter concluded by citing the success of the Officers' Candidate Schools where Negroes and whites were trained without discrimination or segregation.

AUG 14 1943

Best Editorial of the Week

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

HARLEM'S TRAGEDY

Mayor La Guardia was correct in the literal meaning of his words when he said that the disturbances which began in Harlem Sunday night were "not a race riot."

There were no battles between gangs of different races. But every one knows that there would have been no trouble in Harlem if race feeling in that district had not been tense. The rioters who looted stores and attacked police were a very small minority of Negroes in a large and race-conscious Negro community.

Behind that situation were generations of history of which the white man as well as the Negro is a victim.

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AUG 13 1943

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To say this is not to say that it doesn't have to be suppressed. It does have to be, and primarily for the safety and welfare of the good people of Harlem itself.

When this has been done we should have an inquiry participated in by the Negroes and white people who for a long time have been working for a better understanding—and so quietly that their names seldom appear in the newspapers. Can the police system in Harlem b eimproved? Can more Negro policemen be appointed? In deputizing Negroes to patrol the streets yesterday Mayor La Guardia recognized the significance of such appointments.

We cannot wipe out race prejudice or race jealousy in a day among masses of people. But the individual citizen can go far in wiping those emotious out of his own heart. He can recognize that this is everybody's duty, not the white man's, not the Negroes', no any one race's duty. He can learn the lesson that if there is discrimination against any one on account of race or religion, then no one is secure. He can practice on his own account, courtesy and fair play. We are all neighbors in these five boroughs, and much dependent on each other. The wise citizen knows this and the good citizen acts accordingly.—New York Times.

AUG 4 1943

RIOT EPIDEMIC RAGES IN HARLEM
HOODLUMS LEAD PARADE; SIX DEAD

NEW YORK, Aug. 2. — Mayor F. H. La Guardia imposed a 10:30 p. m. curfew upon the Harlem District today after declaring the disorders in which six persons died and 201, including 44 policemen, were injured, had been brought under control.

The mayor announced that a committee of 1,500 persons, mostly Negroes, armed with nightsticks and wearing identification bands, would aid authorities in patrolling Harlem's streets tonight in an effort to prevent recurrence of the disorders.

Maj. Gen. Thomas A Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, said he would not declare Harlem out of military bounds. General Terry, who conferred with the mayor, said, however, that all soldiers in the district would be asked to state legitimate reasons for being there.

A total of 359 persons were arrested as looting of stores continued. Six thousand policemen were on duty in Harlem and all police leaves were canceled.

The disturbances were touched off whn a white policeman shot and wounded a Negro soldier, who police said, attempted to interfere with the arrest of a Negro woman in a hotel lobby.

A white man walking along Lenox Avenue near 137th Street was attacked by a crowd of Negroes. Two Negro soldiers, walking nearby, ran to the victim's aid, ordered the assailants to get away and then escorted the man to safety in a subway station.

Special policemen were placed on duty on subway trains and in subway stations.

Six trucks carrying armed troops were sent into the district last night to round up soldiers on leave and get them out of the area.

Renewed clashes came within an hour after Mayor La Guardia had gone on the air for the second time and called on the "decent, law-abiding citizens of Harlem" to help curb the wave of disorders, declaring:

"A large number of extra policemen have been assigned and the reserves have been called out. All traffic is being detoured, and all liquor stores will be closed until further notice.

The situation appeared under control after the additional policemen and firemen went on duty early in the day with arrests continuing.

"This was not a race riot," the mayor declared; "there was no conflict between groups of our citizens. What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people."

During one of the clashes 700 Negroes gathered outside an Eighth Avenue pawn shop and booed four patrolmen as they arrested five Negroes inside. Some of the crowd threw rocks inside the store and policemen remained inside with their prisoners for an hour and a half until an emergency police truck with 20 policemen arrived and rescued them.

Meanwhile, the prisoners harangued the crowd to "Go home and get your guns and get us out of here."

The policemen said they arrested the five Negroes while they were stealing cameras, golf clubs and othr items and charged them with unlawful entry.

AUG 4 1943

Commission On Race To Study Riot Is Urged

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Randolph Asks New York Mayor To Take Action

NEW YORK—(SNS)— Restrictions imposed in Harlem after rioting Sunday night, in which five persons were killed, were eased by police Wednesday.

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Most of the stores wrecked by hoodlums reopened, although thousands of dollars' worth of stock had been stolen.

Harlem residents were permitted to drive in and out of the district Tuesday, and Mayor F. H. La Guardia predicted all traffic would be resumed Wednesday. The 10:30 curfew imposed by police was set back to 11:30 p. m. lights in Harlem continued to shine brightly in an effort to prevent criminal acts under cover of darkness. The Army has approved temporary exemption from dimout regulations. The ban on sales of liquor continued.

Meanwhile, City Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said police were investigating reports that Ku Klux Klan agents of other agitators had been sent into Harlem from the South to create disturbances.

A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, called upon Mayor La Guardi to appoint a Commission on Race to study the causes of the Harlem community explosion and the basic causes of race riots that are sweeping the country and threatening various communities.

GRAVELY CONCERNED

Randolph said he was "gravely concerned about the people in the Harlem community demonstrating their capacity in co-operation with Mayor La Guardia's law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order. No minority group can survive and go progressively forward where there is no law and order. Violence and bloodshed is not the road to racial peace and co-operation and community racial advancement. Violence begets violence, bloodshed begets bloodshed and always the minority groups are the chief victims."

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Further, the leader of the March-on-Washington Movement said:

"Negroes must stand up and fight for their constitutional and economic rights with the ballot, constructive agitations, education through moral religious labor organizations and all means lawful and orderly, of social protest. I know I can speak for 90 per cent of the great mass of Negroes of Harlem that we are definitely and unqualifiedly opposed to all forms of hoodlumism, the destruction of property, the attack upon shopkeepers and any disregard for law enforcements."

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Randolph said that although this is a period of racial tension "it is well for us frankly and fearlessly to face the fact that this outbreak of disorder in Harlem is merely a symptom of a deep chornic disease of racial segrega-tion, discrimination and injustice to the Negro people." He stated that "the remedy of this problem is not looting stores and abusing and attacking white citizens or condemning Negroes as vicious and reckless vandals, but it lies in sound and construction racial co-operation."

The Harlem disorders began following the shooting of a Negro soldier by a white policeman.

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New York

6 Killed, 543 Hurt, 500 Jailed In Harlem Riot; Frenzied Mobs Smash Windows and Loot Stores

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

44 Policemen Are Injured In Street Battles

By the Associated Press.

New York, Aug. 2.—Six Negroes were killed, 543 persons were injured, including forty-four policemen, and more than 500 arrested in sixteen hours of rioting in Harlem last night and today. Wild smashing of shop windows and looting of stores owned by both Negroes and whites marked the disorders.

A 10:30 p.m. curfew was clamped down on the area, and the wartime dimout was lifted in the nation's largest Negro neighborhood. Six thousand policemecen continued to patrol streets and subway stations. Liquor stores were closed and motor traffic in Harlem virtually was at a standstill.

Three pictures dealing with the Harlem riot are on the Picture Page.

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia expressed a belief that "all's quiet now."

'Not a Race Riot.'

The Mayor was joined by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and a member of City Council, in asserting that the outbreak was "not a race riot."

Said Powell:

"It is a blind, smoldering and unorganized resentment against Jim Crow treatment of Negro men in the armed forces and the usual high rents and cost of living forced upon Negroes in Harlem."

"There was no conflict between groups of our citizens," said the Mayor. "What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums—reckless, irresponsible people. Shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem district. I saw the recklessness of this mob in action. Strange to say, there was no concerted action. Groups of hoodlums acted on their own initiative."

Victims Listed.

Those killed in the disorders were listed as Vincent Randolph, 35, and Stanley Stokes, 20, both of Savannah, Ga.; Frank Stoner, 40, address not given; Michael Young, 43, of New York; Neil Lucas, no age or address given, and an unidentified man.

The disorders began at 7:30 o'clock last night when a policeman shot a Negro soldier who tried to interfere with the arrest of a Negro woman in a hotel lobby. The last outbreak was reported at 11:30 a.m. today when twenty policemen rescued a fellow officer and five prisoners from a pawnshop where a crowd of 700 Negroes threatened the officer and threw rocks into the shop.

The prisoners, arrested on charges of stealing articles from the shop, harangued the crowd to "go home and get your guns and get us out of here."

Shop windows were broken in many sections of Harlem, and on the south side of 116th Street at least half the stores had smashed panes. Many stores were looted almost completely.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said forty-four policemen were injured and that 99 per cent of the others were Negroes.

Because many food stores were closed and milk was scarce in Harlem, Mayor LaGuardia ordered two truckloads of milk sent there, with instructions that "if you can't get it into the stores, sell it to the people in the streets."

A battalion of the New York militia arrived late this morning, headed by Brig. Gen. John J. Mangan, who said he was "just looking around." City officials later announced that a committee of 1,500 persons, most of them Negroes, would help patrol Harlem streets tonight. Each man would be equipped with a nightstick, officials said.

Army Refuses to Act.

Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, surveyed the scene with his staff, and said, "This is strictly a civilian job." He said he would not declare the area "out of bounds" for soldiers.

Chief Magistrate Thomas H. Curran said special sessions of court would be held for those arrested, most of them Negroes. Charges against them ranged from disorderly conduct to homicide.

Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio issued a statement expressing bewilderment at the disorders. He said that as far back as he could remember Harlem had lived in peace and harmony but "now, of late, on the slightest provocation, large numbers are moved to disorder, as if giving expression to some pent-up feeling. It seems to me some insidious propaganda is misleading otherwise would-be peaceful people."

"Zoot Suiters" Attack Bus Driver In Detroit

Detroit, Aug. 2 (AP)—Four young "zoot suiters" were sought by police tonight after a city bus driver had suffered a possible fractured spine when struck by a missile hurled by one of the youths.

Detective Sergt. Delbert Raymond said the four were Negroes who had been passengers on the bus and apparently resented the driver's instructions to move to the rear to permit other persons to board the vehicle.

When the four were leaving the bus, Raymond said, one stood in the door "apparently to detain the driver" and one of the other three picked up "a piece of concrete" and flung it at the driver, William T. Craft, 28, white. Craft was hit in the back.

Craft continued to drive as his assailants fled, but shortly afterwards collapsed. Raymond said the four were "all zoot suiters, from 19 to 20 years old."



AP Wirephoto.

HARLEM'S SOLDIERS get protection when military police arrive in trucks to aid in getting servicemen on leave out of the troubled area following widespread disorders.

CURFEW IN HARLEM RELAXED TO 11:30

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

But Ban on Liquor Sales Will Stay Until Further Notice—Normal Traffic Due Today

MAYOR PRAISES POLICE

Stores Reopen in Blitz-Like Atmosphere—$1,000 Loot Recovered in Apartment

Mayor La Guardia announced yesterday afternoon through Deputy Chief Police Inspector Edward M. Butler that the emergency curfew order in Harlem, which was put into effect after Sunday night's riot when five persons were killed, would be effective last night and hereafter at 11:30 P. M., one hour later than originally fixed.

The Mayor said the ban on vehicular traffic in Harlem had been eased, and that automobile and other traffic through Harlem should be back to normal this morning. Most of the stores that were closed because they were wrecked by hoodlums Sunday night or because their proprietors feared a repetition of such action, are expected to reopen this morning.

With the Army's approval, Harlem ignored the usual dimout regulations last night so that no crimes could be concealed, under cover of darkness. Sales of liquor at bars, taverns and restaurants were prohibited.

Mr. La Guardia laid down the law for Harlem after a conference at the West 123d Street police station with Deputy Chief Inspector Albert Williams, Chief of Staff of the Police Department, and Capt. Walter C. Harding, commanding officer of the precinct.

The Mayor made it clear, however, that all places of amusement, restaurants in Harlem, Mayor congratulated Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine and

Restrictions on Stores Remain

So long as there's nothing new, that's good."

At a closed meeting in which the

Asked if the regulation prohibiting liquor sales would be revoked, the Mayor lifted his hands and replied: "Oh, No. No."

The Mayor asked reporters anywhere and people whether they had heard of any new disorders and when they replied in the negative, he said: "That's the best news I've heard.

So long as there was no harm in and women to re-open at 1:30 P. M. He explained the curfew hour must close at 11:30 P. M. until further notice.

other high police officials for their efficiency in handling Sunday night's emergency, police captains were asked to report to Mr. Valentine as soon as possible all facts about the Negro population in their precincts.

"Let's get back to normalcy as soon as possible," the Mayor told Commissioner Valentine and other high police officials.

Queried on Ku Klux Klan

Asked if he had any information about Ku Klux Klan agents having stirred up trouble in Harlem, the Mayor replied:

"That's a Police Department matter. I wouldn't know. These things are rumors, and rumors must be run down. There is nothing to be excited about."

Those at the meeting included Chief Inspector John J. O'Connell, Assistant Chief Inspector John J. Ryan, Deputy Chief Inspector John J. Gallagher and Assistant Deputy Chief Inspector Patrick J. Kenny. Inspectors Gallagher and Kenny are responsible for Harlem conditions.

The Mayor and Commissioner Valentine paid tribute to the police not only for their quick action, but for their efficient mobilization of searchlights, loudspeaker trucks, emergency wagons and other mechanical equipment.

After the conference with the Mayor, Deputy Chief Inspector Butler said the ban on vehicular traffic in Harlem probably would be lifted by 8 o'clock this morning. He said the regulation against sales of liquor and beer in the district, however, would continue in effect until further notice.

The 116th Street crosstown buses were allowed to operate yesterday. Trucks and cars with milk and other foodstuffs went in and out of the area with police escorts. Residents of the district were allowed to drive in and out if they had good reason to do so.

Stores along West 125th Street and other Harlem shopping thoroughfares looked as if they had been hit by a blitz, but many of them reopened with signs that said, "Business as usual," or something like it.

$1,000 Loot Is Recovered

Loot valued at $1,000, including bedroom furniture and silver fox scarfs, was recovered from two Harlem apartments last night after the police arrested a man and a woman on charges of criminally receiving stolen property.

Detectives Thomas Lennon and Philip Di Gennaro of the West Fifty-fourth Street station said the property was taken from Harlem stores during Sunday night's disturbances.

The detectives arrested Adele Liburd, 42 years old, of 307 West 127th Street, and Bunyan McArthur, 35, of 344 St. Nicholas Avenue. Also taken into custody were Mrs. Liburd's 14-year-old son and a 10-year-old boy, who were held on charges of juvenile delinquency.

According to the detectives, the boys spotted merchandise in stores and got McArthur's aid in moving it to hi sand Mrs. Liburd's apartments, where the police said they found it.

The police said the goods had been stolen from the Century Pawn Brokers, Inc., 34 Eighth Avenue; a furniture store at 2373 Eighth Avenue; and a James Butler chain grocery store at 2391 Eighth Avenue.

Mr. Valentine said the Police Department was investigating reports that Ku Klux Klan agents or other agitators from the South had been sent to Harlem to stir up trouble.

City Councilman Peter V. Cacchione, Brooklyn Communist, served notice at yesterday's Council meeting that he would seek to discharge the Committee on Rules from further consideration of his resolution calling for a Council-manic investigation of "groups and individuals who attempt to create racial or religious antagonisms in New York City." The resolution, introduced shortly after the Detroit race riots, has been locked in committee since.

Claims totaling $100,000 had been filed at Harlem police headquarters at the West 123d Street station late yesterday by 155 Harlem merchants. One of the largest was $15,000 from the Empire Jewelry Shop, 307 Lenox Avenue. Other $15,000 claims were filed by M. Greenwald, proprietor of a men's clothing store at 2111 Sev[illegible]th Avenue, and the Orfins Fashion Shop, a women's store at 218 West 125th Street. Max Rosenblatt, proprietor of an Army and Navy store at 2474 Eighth Avenue, filed a claim for $14,500.

Need for Unity Is Cited

The Metropolitan Council of Fair Employment Practices, representing a score of civic groups, social agencies and inter-racial organizations concerned with equality of employment opportunities for all groups made the following statement:

"One of the major factors contributing to the Harlem riots was the deep and accumulated resentment over the denial of equal employment opportunities for Negroes —both in hiring and upgrading. Today there are many war and non-war industries that are not fully using available Negro skills.

"The need of national unity and the maintenance of maximum production for victory should prompt all employers to adopt a democratic employment policy."

Leaders of the American Labor Party urged Harlem residents to reject violence as a cure for "injustice" in a statement issued by George S. Counts, state chairman; Alex Rose, state secretary, and Andrew R. Armstrong, state treasurer. Their statement said:

"The American Labor Party stands for economic, social and political equality, without regard to race, color or creed. It has consistently fought and condemned racial discrimination.

"The ALP fully recognizes the just grievances of the Negro. These grievances cannot be satisfied through disorder."

Conditions were so much better in Harlem last night that Fire Commissioner Patrick Welsh ended the recall system whereby firemen had been working an extra tour of duty in Manhattan and the Bronx since Sunday night.

Bert Gilbert of 55 Central Park West, owner of the Braddock Hotel at 126th Street near Eighth Avenue, where the incident that started the Harlem riots occurred, was released in $1,000 bail yesterday for hearing Sept. 9 after appearing in Harlem court on a summons charging that he "failed to keep for a period of one year a complete record showing the names, residence and date of arrival and departure of his guests." The maximum penalty is a $500 fine, a penitentiary term up to three y ears, or both.

In the Homicide Court, Justice Thornsberry, a Negro bartender, of 211 West 115th Street, was held without bail by Magistrate Edmund Palmieri on the charge of having shot and killed Neil Lucas, another Negro, at 4:40 o'clock Monday morning. The shooting occurred in a bar at 2,111 Eighth Avenue.

Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio in Felony Court praised Police Capt. Paul H. Lustbader for "an excellent job and good judgment" in handling the riots.

Denouncing the Negro soldiers accused of burglary as a "disgrace to the uniform you wear," Magistrate Aurelio said:

"Instead of cooperating, you were there, adding fuel to the mob."

Magistrate Aurelio held the two soldiers, both Military Policemen, in $1,000 bail each. The police said they were with another M. P. who was shot by a policeman in a store at 683 Lenox Avenue during the riots, and who is now in the prison ward at Harlem Hospital, accused of burglary.

PLAIN TALK
by Elmer A. Carter
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

THE REIGN OF THE HOODLUM

GOD KNOWS the battle is tough enough as it is without having to divert our forces to beat off attacks from the rear. And that is what happened in New York the other night when for twelve hours (or six as the papers say) the battle front was savagely attacked from the rear by a riotous gang of hoodlums who carried death and destruction through the streets of Harlem. When their assault was over, 300 Negro men and women were in hospitals, 500 in jail, and five, possibly more, were dead. And in addition $5,000,000 worth of property had been destroyed.



Mr. Carter

If the worst enemies of the Negro had deliberately planned to disgrace him and to prove that he is not sufficiently self-controlled to be granted complete equality, they could have found no more effective demonstration than the disgraceful orgy of robbery and looting in which scores of Negroes, young and old, indulged late Sunday night and early Monday morning of August 1st and 2nd in the great Negro area of the world's greatest city. The speed with which vandalism spread seemed to indicate that it was being subtly directed and this possibility deserves exhaustive investigation.

The Explanation

Negro leaders have given the daily press a multiplicity of reasons and explanations for this outbreak. Discrimination in the army and industry, lack of sufficient recreational opportunities, overcrowding, and a lot of other reasons which come easily to the lips of those who speak for the Negro whenever he is charged with anti-social behavior. But these reasons seem strangely inadequate as one looks into the bashed in windows of clothing stores, jewelry shops, pawn shops, grocery stores, shoe stores, toggery shops and walks over miles of broken glass were hemmed in before. Now the lines will be drawn tighter than ever and that the stigma of a lawless, irresponsible community will be fastened upon it for a generation.

It is easy to ascribe this shameful outbreak to social conditions and to resentment provoked by racial discrimination and segregation. Granted there are tensions created by the war and the bitterness which almost every Negro feels about his shabby treatment in the war effort. But even these things cannot excuse or condone the wanton destruction of property by the mob, even a black mob.

We might as well face the cold facts. And the facts are that lawlessness in Harlem has been given impetus by the inability or the unwillingness of police officials to curb it by swift and stern measures; that smarting under the criticism of police brutality in the report of his own commission in 1935, the Mayor, great as his administration unquestionably has been in all other aspects of municipal government, has been curiously ineffective in the direction of police administration of Harlem; that his instructions to the police of Harlem, in order to check and eliminate police brutality, have had the effect of making them hesitant in the enforcement of the law, particularly against youthful offenders and this hesitancy and uncertainty has, on the part of police officers, served to encourage lawlessness among Negro youth.

"We're shackled," has been the answer of scores of patrolmen when asked by various citizens why they did not adopt sterner measures in the suppression of lawlessness in Harlem neighborhoods. As a result, for years colored women have been afraid to go unescorted on certain streets because of fear of robbery. And even on the avenues, our main thoroughfares, they have been constantly subjected to lewd and insulting remarks from corner loafers. Unchecked, these errant youths have grown bolder and defiant. They know Harlem is inadequately policed.

The Future

A few weeks ago I suggested a plan for the mass renovation of the business places on the great arterial highways which run through Harlem—Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Avenues. The plan called for a cooperative effort of colored and white business men, the banks, the post-war planning committee of the city, the state and the federal government to make these streets beautiful and attractive. The twelve-hour rule of Negro hoodlums of Harlem has made this plan vastly more difficult if not impossible of attainment. For banks don't loan money on property that is in constant danger of being destroyed by riots. And insurance companies won't take business risks in communities where the spirit of vandalism runs unchecked.

Before we can advance, we've got to reform our lines. We have got to eliminate the enemy in our rear. Negro social organizations did a magnificent job in aiding in restoring order after the riot had begun. They must now utilize their resources so that such a thing can never happen again. They must end the reign of hoodlums.

New York's Harlem Scene Of Wild Riot, Advertiser

Thousands Of Negroes In Big Orgy Early Monday

Montgomery, Ala.

NEW YORK, Monday, Aug. 2.—(U.P.) — The wounding of a negro military policeman by a white patrolman of the city police force in Harlem last night touched off a wild demonstration in which more than a thousand negroes milled around the area for several hours. Most of the demonstrators were young Negroes. The Mayor, who rushed to the affected area from Fifth to Eighth Avenues and from 110th to 155th Streets, asking them to go home. His words apparently had little effect as the rioting continued, apparently unchecked.

Several hundred police of all types — radio car, mounted, motorcycle and patrolmen — were early today in the area attempting to break up the demonstrations and keep the area.

The demonstrators still were in the Harlem area bounded by Seventh and Eighth Avenues on the east, 28th Precinct Station on the south and by 123rd and 125th streets.

There were no reports of clashes between whites and Negroes.

61-1943

New York

BEHIND THE HARLEM OUTBREAK

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Ben Davis, Jr.

The unfortunate outbreak in Harlem, resulting in the loss of six lives, several score injured and enormous property damage, was a blind spontaneous protest growing out of perfectly legitimate grievances long festering in this patriotic but jim-crowed community.

It was not a race riot. Not even the most faithful, twisted minds in the service of Hitler—the defeatist press, the appeasers, the Negro-haters—could indulge themselves the pleasure of having produced a Detroit here. But the danger has not passed—it will not pass for the duration. Axis agents work ceaselessly, and deviously, their disruption to perform.

The quick and understanding response of Mayor LaGuardia, with the bold and accepted assistance shown by such outstanding Negro leaders as Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress and director of the Council on African Affairs, and Ferdinand Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union and chairman of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, and other Negro and labor leaders, helped to prevent the situation from developing into an even more disastrous character and finally brought it under control.

A broad unity meeting of unionists, Negro community leaders and organizations — representing every creed, color and political affiliation — called by Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Jr., chairman of the People's Committee, on Monday afternoon showed the ability of the Harlem community, and the Negro people in particular, to bring order out of chaos and to fulfill their responsibility to the community and to the nation, in the midst of a war for our country's national existence. This meeting, which set up an Emergency Citizens' Committee, was a miniature June 7 Negro Freedom Rally, in which Negro-white unity for victory was dramatically sealed by patriotic citizens and organizations, including the Communist Party.

Yet law and order could never have been restored to Harlem without the active participation, support and understanding of the Negro people as a whole. No one is more conscious of their justifiable grievances, nor more insistent upon the patriotic wisdom of rapidly satisfying them, than Negroes themselves. For that reason they want no Detroit here; they have condemned "race riots" up and down the city in spite of all provocations; they consider such conflicts as a danger to the unity, discipline, and clear-headed action so essential to victory over Hitler in Europe and over Hitler's poll tax and race-hating allies at home.

HINDERED THEIR CAUSE

The wholesale looting and destruction of property was irresponsible and unrepresentative and cast a pall of remorse over the community, who felt that it hindered and not helped, the embattled cause of the Negro people. It was not the way of victory for the Negro people or for the nation. It could only set the stage for Axis agents to sneak in with their poison of racial hatred, violence and disruption of the home front.

But it is superficial, and even dangerous, to attribute the outbreak to "hoodlums and hoodlumism," as even some win-the-war newspapers are doing. For no patriotic citizen can escape responsibility for this outbreak and its fundamental causes. There are deep social and economic causes to be found, not causes-as-usual, but social and economic causes in the midst of the tension of a just war of national liberation.

The policy of the Mayor and Commissioner Valentine in issuing a shoot order to policemen and in deputizing trade unionists and Negro citizens was a reflection of the character of the war in that it was recognition that the governmental authorities must work with labor and the community to solve the grave problems which confront the Negro people and the nation. In this situation, New York's Finest acted as New York's Finest, and did not repeat the provocative murders and brutalities of Detroit policemen.

The shooting of the Negro soldier Sunday night by a policeman, under conditions where the Negro people have too often been brutalized by individual policemen and where Negro mothers are bitterly angry over flagrant instances of atrocities against Negro soldiers, especially by civilian authorities, was like throwing a match into a tinder-box. Almost any incident could have lighted the flame, but that one was made to order. For this is a war of liberation and the Negro people, above all, want and need liberation, in order that they may participate on the basis of equality with all other peoples in this global war against the Nazi-Japanese-Italian enslavers.



NEGRO AIR RAID WARDENS, men and women, with a member of the New York City Fire Department, engage in patrol duty in Harlem. Thousands of Negro and white citizens assisted the city authorities.

In proportion that Negro citizens, with their unbounded energies and proven talents, are mobilized as free and equal Americans, and the Fifth Column-Klan enemies are jailed, will our country and the United Nations have the human and material resources to meet most speedily the valiant Red Army in Berlin and Rome in 1943.

SPECIFIC GRIEVANCES

This is the over-all picture, but there are specific grievances applicable to Harlem. The rents, the failure to adequate price control, jim-crowism in housing and employment, lack of adequate recreational and playground facilities, school congestion, the proposed Metropolitan jim-crow housing project, jim-crow mistreatment of Negro soldiers, insufficient labor and Negro representation on OPA ration boards, discrimination at beaches and amusement parks—these are the principal grievances which tug at the hearts of Harlem. Most of these ills are not new. And although some progress is being made against jim-crow, particularly in industry through the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee and the War Labor Board, the progress is too small and too slow to break the back of the jim-crow system and to meet the needs of lagging war production. Now discrimination stands out all the more sharply and painfully because it contradicts the character and objectives of this peoples' war.

The closest cooperation between the LaGuardia Administration, labor, the Negro people and all patriotic citizens, irrespective of class, in support of President Roosevelt's domestic and foreign policy is necessary to accomplish this imperative job. The unity of Negro and white against provocations, Axis-inspired rumors, and for equality and victory is absolutely esesntial. For we have in New York City many minority peoples who must work together as equals and among whom the Fifth Column is intent upon producing strife, hatred and inequalities.

WORLD-TELEGRAM

The way of the enemy was demonstrated by a red-baiting editorial in the **World-Telegram** on Tuesday. This defeatist newspaper whose columns have breathed the Trotzkyite-"Socialist" lie that the Communists have given up the struggle for Negro rights, now spreads the exactly opposite lie that the Communists were the "cause" of the Sunday outbreak. These contradictory statements, both of them malicious slanders, cancel each other, and are pap for morons. Anti-Negroism, like anti-Semitism, is the handmaiden of red-baiting. While the **Telegram** on its editorial pages used inflammatory, anti-Communist language and avoided all mention of the necessity of the restoration of order and insisting upon immediate measures for Negro youth and eliminating the jim-crow oppression of the Klan, equal

Pegler was whooping in Goebbels'a city-wide scale. Hitler's fifth column wherever ingressive police depa

the wiping out of all Jim Crow from our city. White citizens have a special responsibility to combat discrimination and to unite against provocation upon Negro domestics and war workers.

But our fight to defeat this danger hanging over our city should come an inter-racial councilton of city officials, labor and all minority people, a closer unity of Negroes and whites around a constructive program for Harlem; firm determination to make our city a fortress of equality and democracy for all citizens—an example of the four freedoms for which we are fighting.

Factors in Harlem Riots

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

When our investigators of the recent Harlem rioting and looting begin to try to trace it to improper housing, lack of playgrounds and racial discrimination, why not have them study that almost forgotten police strike in Boston about twenty-five years ago—and the wholesale looting by white Bostonians at that time?

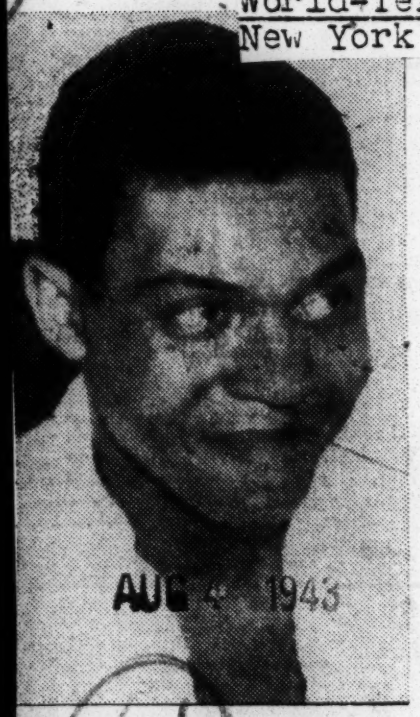
Was that due to high rents, playground lack or racial prejudice? Or just raw hoodlumism and mob psychology? And wasn't Harlem's riot due largely to those factors?

J. K. CLARK.

Point o' Woods, L. I., Aug. 9, 1943.

Hint Klan Provoked Harlem Outbreaks *In at the Start*

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.



Pvt. Robert Bandy, 26, who was shot after he is alleged to have seized a policeman's club.



Margie Polite, 35, whose arrest started trouble.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine was told today about reports that Ku Klux Klan agents had been sent to Harlem to provoke violence. He was asked:

"Can you tell us if this is true?"

He replied: "The matter is under investigation. I have no further comment."

Earlier he had been asked if it were true the police sabotage squad had been investigating the presence of out-of-town hoodlums for some time before Sunday's outbreak. The commissioner answered: "Partly."

No More Comment.

Pressed for details on these gangs, whose ostensible crusade was to "avenge" alleged mistreatment of Negro soldiers in southern communities, the commissioner said: "Sorry. I do not wish further to comment on this subject."

Meanwhile, after its quietest night in years, Harlem was quickly returning to a state of normalcy. All tension had vanished from the streets and the squads which still kept watch at key intersections early this morning shut off the motors of their riot cars and generally relaxed their vigilance.

Commissioner Valentine praised the members of the police force for "exercising tact, patience and restraint." His revised list of casualties stood: Five dead, 201 hurt, including 60 police, and 504 men and women arrested.

Matthew J. Eder, executive secretary of the Uptown (formerly Harlem) Chamber of Commerce, predicted the previously quoted figure of $5,000,000 would prove "conservative" for the damage wreaked on food, liquor and clothing stores, taverns and pawnshops Sunday night.

"Many businesses were wiped out," he said. "This applied particularly to liquor stores, whose destroyed or stolen stocks cannot be replaced."

Thirty out of the 40 liquor stores in the area between 100th and 170th Sts. and the two rivers were broken into, in some cases the looters not only cleaned out the trading shelves, but the cellars also.

More than 640 store windows were broken. Of these 408 were on 125th St. between Fifth and St. Nicholas Aves. Losses to pawnshops alone were put by Mr. Eder at upward of $200,000. He said most of the area's merchants were insured against glass breakage but not otherwise, with the exception of clothiers and haberdashers.

Relatively few people were in the streets early in the day, but toward afternoon the section began to resume its normal aspect despite the almost total absence of civilian traffic. Shops which had not been looted were doing a better than normal business even though some of them had boards or chicken wire in lieu of windows.

Rush of Relief Checks.

The Manufacturers Trust Co. branch at 60 W. 125th St., which has been handling relief checks, was besieged by citizens who had been unable to cash their checks yesterday. At 10:30 the bank announced that the business had got ahead of the clerks and that no more relief checks would be cashed until tomorrow morning. A line of 500 dispersed peacefully.

Declares Police Ignored Looters

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

By G. R. HIGGINBOTHAM
(Special to the Atlanta Daily World)

NEW YORK—(SNS)—A provoked, half-drunk bunch of hoodlums went crazy with the heat Sunday night in Harlem and hell broke loose. The spark was touched off by the shooting of a colored soldier by a white policeman in a hotel at 126th Street and 8th Avenue, in the heart of Harlem.

Thousands of Negroes quickly gathered in a mass demonstration, and the march on Harlem got underway. The hoodlums took advantage of the demonstration and went on a window-smashing, looting spree, worse than that which occurred about a decade ago. The police, it seems, were either indifferent or powerless to do much about it, judging from the destruction of property and the looting, which has not been completely appraised.

Monday morning, about nine o'clock, I made a tour (by foot) of 7th, 8th Avenues and 125th Street, where most of the damage was done. Everything was calm, but looting was still going on right under the nose of the police. Children—little children, four and five years old—and pretty girls, well dressed and in their teens, and old men and women were looting.

I called a policeman's attention in one instance, where five girls were looting a dry goods store on 125th treet. It was ignored. I tried to shame the girls and got a good cursing out for not minding my "own business." The police, in many instances, seemed to be enjoying the holiday.

This was no race riot and the police didn't try to make one out of it. I saw only one arrest. However, the demonstration may be expensive to the group.

Radio cars by the dozen were parked in front of the hospital. The people seemed to be waiting. Little figures in exaggerated clothes ran around shouting and jeering, but the cops didn't stop them, just stood there.

Suddenly, the window of a liquor store opposite the hospital was smashed.

A minute later the owner, a small, frightened white man, was being led into the hospital. His nose had been broken.

Others had arrived before him, Negroes—quiet, respectable Negroes—who had been injured as they were hurrying away from trouble.

Garbled stories of the shooting spread.

"The soldiers in the hospital there," one excited woman told another. "Poor boy, he was shot trying to keep a white cop from hurting his mother."

A Woman's Scream.

People edged closer to the hospital. Suddenly a woman screamed. The next minute she was stumbling up to us.

"Officer, officer," she cried. "I've been hit."

A brick had hit her. It closed one eye and split open her forehead. Negroes were whamming Negroes.

"They've lost their heads now," said Detective Mawrer. He glanced up at the velvety, starlit sky. "If it would only rain. That would clear the streets."

By this time Sydenham's white steps were discolored. The white storekeeper, who'd had his nose broken, sat patiently on a bench in the hall. On his left was a Negro woman with a cut on her knee.

"I was just goin' home," she kept repeating, "when something hit me."

British Seaman Hit.

Next to her sat a white boy, Arthur Knight, a 16-year-old British merchant seaman. One eye was closed. His right cheek was cut.

"I don't hold this against America," he said politely. "You see, I didn't know anything about Harlem. This is my first visit. A Canadian soldier took me to the Apollo Theater on 125th St. When we came out, we were hit from all sides. It's a bit puzzling."

He fingered his lip gingerly.

"If they'll just put a compress on my face, I'll taxi to the boat."

At 2 a. m., he was still waiting for the compress, so many more urgent cases had come in.

Looters Appear.

But the type of injured had changed. Now they were coming in with arms and hands cut.

"They've been looting stores," said Sgt. Ernest Scheyder of the W. 100th St. station. "See the rolls of linoleum that fellow's got?"

He pointed to a lanky man hanging on to a bundle of linoleum with his uninjured arm.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Reporter Sees Injured Stream Into Hospital

By HELEN WORDEN,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

I was sitting in the E. 67th St. police station talking to Lt. Joseph Buck and Detective George Mawrer about Harlem last night when a policeman came in and said there was trouble up on W. 126th St.

"A cop was making an arrest in the Hotel Braddock," he told us, "when a colored soldier knocked him down. Defending himself, he shot the soldier in the shoulder. He's been taken to Sydenham."

Ten minutes later I was at Sydenham Hospital. On the way up with Mawrer it was quiet enough on the streets, but little groups were standing on corners talking and I noticed that kids booed as our car passed. As we neared the hospital the crowds grew larger and there was a hum in the air.

Crowd Just Waits.

Policemen were everywhere.

Riot Rises, OPA Plans Check On Food Prices

NEW YORK—(AP)—While the death toll of the recent Harlem rioting rose to six early Saturday, the district OPA office announced it would open a branch in Harlem Monday. Commenting on the announcement that a Harlem branch of the price-OPA would be formed, H. Woodruff Bissell, chief district executive, said: "We have lying cause of the disturbance. Benjamin Moody, a Negro, died at Harlem Hospital of gunshot wounds in the back, received, police said, as he fled from a grocery store which he had entered and robbed at the height of the rioting. Item for item, food prices are higher there, and it wants an office in that section

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Death Toll In Harlem

THE HORIZON

Harlem Eruption Exposes Gap Between Fellowship And Leadership and Weakness of Latter

BY P. L. PRATTIS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HARLEM'S outbreak of violence last week grimly and menacingly points up a condition which has long existed and which Negroes themselves have either feared or tried to ignore. In his remarkably sensitive portrayal of some aspects of Negro life, "No Day of Triumph," J. Saunders Redding gives a glimpse behind the veil of Negro life to show the distrust and antipathy which exists between the so-called Negro upper and the Negro would-be better classes. The man who is trying to improve himself, to achieve a status which the white man will respect, dreads the encroachment of the loud, obscene, boisterous, don't-give-a damn Negro mass. As a child, Mr. Redding learned this by the reaction of his own family and friends when the uncouth Negro spilled over into the nice section of town where Mr. Redding's father, by dint of hard work, self-respect and regard for others, had been able to make a home.



Mr. Prattis

It is foolish for most Negro leaders to boast of any claim of influence among the masses of Negroes. They simply don't have it. The masses of Negroes do not know A. Philip Randolph, Walter White, Lester Granger, the members of the so-called "Black Cabinet" in Washington, or any of a thousand Negroes who have lifted themselves up and sought to exercise a corrective influence on other Negroes. The only Negro who lights a spark in the heart of every Negro today is Joe Louis. That is a tragedy, although it is not to the discredit of Louis. The chances are that Joe Louis could have stopped the violence in Harlem by himself, unarmed. But he is the only single Negro who could have.

VILE PUBLIC LANGUAGE

NO ONE knows better than Negro leaders themselves of what the violence in Harlem is symptomatic. They know that that violence is a symptom of a condition which you can find in any and every urban community. Walter White, with his wife and daughter, can pass almost any corner in Harlem, or in any other Negro community in the country, and have his wife and daughter treated to torrents of the vilest language known to man. Not only Mr. White, but any other Negro who has any respect for himself and his family, must be prepared to submit to the same type of insult when he leaves his home. Negroes might as well admit this. They might as well admit that there is an element in the Negro mass which has no respect for Negroes or anybody else, and that it is a dangerous element. Anybody who has ever been to Harlem knows that it is full of thieves. Negro thieves. Man's ingenuity has been taxed to find locks to keep them out. These thieves, hoodlums and burglars exist in nearly every Negro community.

God knows the white man has treated us badly and continues to do so. God knows we must continue to fight against those forces in the white world which would deprive us of a man's chance.

But it is the sheerest folly for us to extenuate for the Negro for all his sins and blame them on the white man.

WHY HIDE FACTS?

NEGRO LEADERS must look the facts straight in the face. How shameful it was of one of our great newspapers last week to refrain from publishing photographs of the Harlem outbreak! This newspaper has never hesitated to publish photographs of whites, no matter how gruesome. What was to be gained by hiding from other Negroes the fact that Negroes in Harlem had defied law and order, that the camera's lens had caught hundreds of them in the act of stealing? There was the proof to show Negroes everywhere that they themselves must act to combat this crime within the race.

Undeniably, Negro leaders who have sometimes listened to the irresponsible voice of the Negro need the help of the white machinery for preserving law and order. The surest way for Walter White to have committed suicide in Harlem last week would have been for him to have appeared alone and tried to have stopped those Negroes on rampage. The better class Negro is almost powerless against the mob. One of the reasons for that is the fact that, by and large, so little support is given the decent Negro by white law enforcement agencies. The decent Negro is left to the mercy of the mob. All Negroes, in most communities, receive the same rude treatment from the police. The attack on Roland Hayes was evidence of that. The law enforcement agencies are an instrument of better class whites if they choose to use it. If better class whites find themselves outraged by their vicious elements, they can call on the police first. If the police fail, the militia swings into action. If the militia is powerless there is the army. Better class Negroes have nothing but their mouths which aren't nearly so loud as the voices of the Negro mob.

NEED HELP OF WHITES

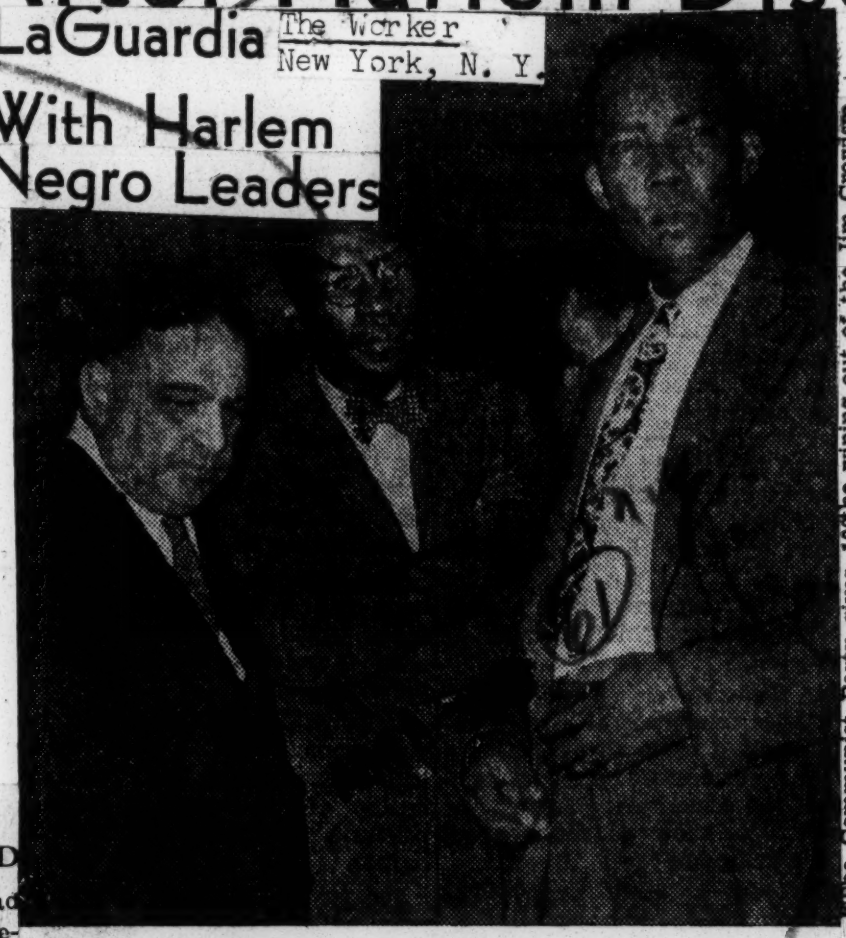
THERE HAS been a lot of talk lately about the formation of interracial committees in various cities. One of the first responsibilities of Negro members of such committees is to admit the facts of life so far as Negroes are concerned and not always try to attribute everything to sociological and economic factors placed at the door of the white man. One of the first responsibilities of white members of these committees is to sell to other white people the plain truth that all Negroes are not alike, that some are good and some are bad, and that the decent Negro should be helped in his efforts to combat evils within his own race. Only the white man's agencies can prevent Negro prostitutes from living next door on either side of a Negro minister or lawyer or doctor. Only the white man's agencies can stop the all-night gambling next door to me. I dare not open my mouth, for experience has taught me that through traffic in various forms of vice, and the influence of politics, the low-class Negro has greater sway with the police than the better class Negro.

'End Jim Crow' Is Cry After Harlem Disorders

LaGuardia With Harlem Negro Leaders

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

AUG 8 1943



Mayor F. H. LaGuardia is pictured with Ferdinand Smith, (right) vice-president of the National Maritime Union, who, together with Dr. Max Yergan of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, joined with the Mayor in appeals.

Harlem, the largest Negro center in the world, was this week recovering from disorders which caused five deaths, injuries to 500 and property damage estimated in the millions.

Outbreaks, which began in an obscure hotel late Sunday night and swept the streets of Harlem for hours, were precipitated by rumors that a policeman had killed a Negro soldier in the presence of his mother.

The vast majority of Harlem's citizens, however, were not involved in the rioting which followed. Groups composed mostly of youths in their teens raided scores of shops with food stores the chief point of assault.

During the week numerous organizations demanded basic action to rid New York City of the curse of Jim Crow as a method for averting similar explosive incidents.

Negro, labor and civic leaders cooperated actively with Mayor LaGuardia in bringing order to the stricken community. This was symbolized by the formation by orders of the Mayor of a Negro Civilian Committee of 1,500 to accompany police on patrol duty.

This action is believed to be the first of its kind in America and the step by Mayor LaGuardia was in striking contrast to the anti-Negro attitude of Detroit officials.

With order restored the chief problem facing the authorities was the scarcity of food for the Harlem community.

Meeting at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 250 Negro and white citizens represeting labor, community and church groups joined on Monday to bring about unified action to aid in restoring order in Harlem.

The following day a second meeting made two chief proposals:

1 — Quick consideration by the Mayor of the food crisis in Harlem.

2—That the Mayor could use his influence with President Roosevelt to combat effects of discrimination in the armed forces against Negroes. Committee members agreed that the immediate cause of the Harlem outburst was such discrimination.

Active in the city-wide citizens movement to bring the significance of the Harlem events to the people of New York were the various organizations of the Communist Party.

"We also support the proposal for five cent sound trucks owned by the New York City radio station, WNYC, to restore and maintain lousness that are the root causes of the unfortunate toured Harlem. They made regular order," Gilbert Green, for the profound dissatisfaction secretary, said in a state-among the Negro people."

Throughout the day on Monday and the Harlem civic housing, high prices and police cal- support to the efforts of discrimination, high rents, bad The Communist Party gives 100 the wiping out of the Jim Crowism.

AUG 12 1943
AUG 12 1943
AUG 12 1943

HARLEM RIOT SHOWED RESENTMENT OF SOLDIER TREATMENT, STIMSON TOLD

Des Moines, Iowa

AUG 7 1943

New York, N. [illegible] The widespread resentment among all classes of Negro citizen to the treatment their men have been receiving in the Army was one of the principal contributing factors to the disorders in Harlem on the night of August 1, according to Walter White, NAACP secretary, in a letter to Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

Bystander

The spark which touched off the Harlem riot and looting spree was a report that a Negro soldier had been shot and killed by a white policeman. The report was not true because the soldier was only slightly wounded, but the mere report, with the background of mistreatment of Negro soldiers elsewhere in the country, was sufficient to touch off the destructive rampage which did five million dollars' worth of damage. The NAACP letter said:

"It was the fury born of repeated unchecked, unpunished and often rebuked shooting, maiming, and insulting of Negro troops, particularly in the southern states," which started the disorders.

where speakers appealed for the maintenance of order. Dr. Walter White and Ed Strong, the latter Executive Secretary of the National Negro Congress, were among those who addressed the assemblages.

While declaring that the residents of Harlem had just grievances arising out of discrimination on jobs, excessive prices, high rents, etc., they nevertheless emphasized the fact that redress of these grievances would have to be obtained in orderly fashion, and that incidents such as those which broke out Sunday night constituted the worst possible course of action.

Shortly before 1 o'clock Monday morning Mayor LaGuardia went on the air over stations WOR and WABC in an appeal to the people of Harlem to cooperate with the authorities in clearing certain streets of milling crowds and to explain the situation that had made necessary reinforcements.

YERGAN, SMITH

The mayor interrupted his radio broadcast to introduce Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress and director of the Council on African Affairs, and Ferdinand Smith, vice-president of the National Maritime Union. The latter strongly supported LaGuardia in his appeal.

The incident that touched off the Harlem events was the reported rough handling of a 33-year-old woman, Miss Majorie Polite, of 258 W. 127th St., by Patrolman James Collins in the lobby of the Hotel Braddock, 272 W. 126th St.

Police charged that Pvt. Robert Bandy, a 26-year-old Negro soldier attached to the 730th Military Police battalion stationed in Jersey City and on leave, sought to interfere with Collins. Their version was that the young soldier took the club from the policeman and struck him. Collins, it is admitted, then drew his revolver and shot the Negro private.

1935 REPORT

Observers this week pointed to the prophetic character of the report of the Commission on Conditions in Harlem in 1935 appointed by Mayor LaGuardia following disorders touched off by rumors following the arrest of a 16-year-old boy accused of stealing a ten-cent article in the Kress five-and-dime store on 125th St.

The report, ignored by the city administration, declared that:

"The explosion of March 19 (1935) could never have been set off by the trifling incident had not existing economic and social forces created a state of emotional tension which sought release upon the slightest provocation. As long as the economic and social forces which were responsible for that condition continue to operate, a state of tension will exist in Harlem and recurrent outbreaks may occur."

Such an outbreak did occur Sunday night.

Comments on the Harlem events of this week by Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs, who is vice-president of the Citywide Citizens Committee on Harlem said:

"You can't continue to discriminate, humiliate, starve an underprivileged class without expecting a blowoff. This is a manifestation of conditions not only in New York but throughout the nation."

The Harlem Rioting

Dear Editor:

It was with intense bitterness and regret that I heard of the recent riots in Harlem. Time and again we learn that the causes of these disorders are either ignorance or misinformation.

In England, when the threat of violence, in the form of anti-Semitic pogroms, began to rise with the flaming comet that was Mosely, we Jews formed a plan of defense. Under the patrimony of the Jewish Board of Deputies, a speaker class was formed with the following ideas:

¶ To study the pros and cons of the entire issue.

¶ To go out into the streets, into the very strongholds of fascism to proclaim the truth, to answer all questions, and to disprove fascist lies.

History shows proof of our success.

Brooklyn NOEL MARKRIDGE

* * *

Pemit me to expess full satisfaction for the manner in which PM reported the Harlem incident.

If we [illegible] to activate the words of our Vice President: "We cannot fight to crush Nazi brutality abroad and condone race riots at home," much will be done to stem any encroachment upon the peace that is to come.

Amherst, Mass. M. LEVY

* * *

Your handling of the recent disgraceful riots in Harlem is beyond any decent citizen's comprehension.

When you go out of your way to distort this violent outburst of unmitigated terror into a defense of its perpetrators and place the blame on the same white people of our city—that, is complete unadulterated falsehood. Your handling of the riots is a defense of lawlessness. It's high time colored people stopped going around with a chip on their shoulder.

New Yok EMIL MASTER

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Ballad of Margie Polite

By LANGSTON HUGHES

If Margie Polite
Hod of been white
She might not've passed
Out on the cop that night.

In the lobby
Of the Braddock Hotel
She might not've felt
The urge to raise hell.

A soldier took her part,
He got shot in the back
By a white cop.
The soldier was black.

Killed a colored soldier!
Folks started to cry it.
The cry spread over Harlem
And turned into riot.

Taken Margie to jail
And kept her there.
Disorderly conduct
The charges swear.

Margie warn't nobody
Important before——
But she ain't just nobody
Now no more.

She started the riots!
Harlemites say
Call August 1st
MARGIE'S DAY.

Mark August 1st
As decreed by fate
For Margie and History
To have a date.

Mayor La Guardia
Riding up and down.
Somebody yelled, **What about**
Stuyvesant Town?

Colored leaders
In sound trucks.
Somebody hollered,
Go home, you hucks!

They didn't kill the soldier,
Somebody yelled,
A race leader cried.
Naw! But they tried!

Margie Polite!
Margie Polite!
Kept the Mayor
And Walter White
And everybody
Up all night!

When the PR[illegible]
Taken Margie away—
Wasn't Mother's,
Wasn't Father's—
It was MARGIE'S DAY!

Harlem Normal Again After Wild Rioting

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By GERALD DOOME

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Riot-scarred Harlem returned to normal over the week-end. Social workers, city officials and Harlem itself, sought an explanation for the sudden outburst of violence and destruction that engulfed the tight Negro capital of America, Sunday night, Aug 1, and Monday morning, Aug. 2.

The actual total showed six persons killed, over 500 injured and more than 1,000 arrested. The number of injured probably went over the 1,000 mark, but did not figure in the official total since hundreds didn't seek first aid at the hospitals and other public dispensaries and went to private physicians or to friends instead.

From 110th street, bounding Central park to 155th street where the viaduct bridges the gap between Sugar Hill and the Bronx evidences of the destruction wrought could be seen. Boarded windows bore mute testimony to the fury of the ravaging mobs who roamed the streets Sunday night and Monday morning, stealing, plundering and burning.

Many businesses were wiped out completely. Matthew J. Eder, white executive secretary of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Harlem Chamber of Commerce, said that the figure of $5,000,000 would prove "conservative" for the damage wreaked on food, liquor and clothing stores, taverns and pawnshops. Said he:

"Many businesses were wiped out. This applied particularly to liquor stores whose destroyed and stolen stocks cannot be replaced."

Last Thursday morning liquor stores, taverns, bars, and grills reopened their doors for the first time since Sunday night. It was a cautious reopening as though the owners were still afraid to run the risk of exposing their depleted liquor stocks.

At noon Thursday few of the taverns had customers on hand. Ordinarily such places are doing booming business from 9 a.m. until closing time. Stores dealing in merchandise, clothing, food, were in operation in many instances on Tuesday morning, even though their windows were boarded [illegible] the sidewalk up.

Faces Assault Charge

The disturbance, which resulted when a white policeman shot and wounded a Negro soldier who sought to prevent his arrest of a woman at a closed hotel charged with being a disorderly house, had its echoes. Pvt. Robert Bandy, 26 an MP, attached to a unit in New Jersey charged with setting off the riot by his action, was turned over to military authorities after his release from Bellevue hospital.

Bandy upon his discharge from the hospital was arraigned before Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio in felony court to face trial for felonious assault. Another soldier, Pvt. John Logwood, of the 34th Aviation squadron at Mitchel Field, L. I., was also haled into court and charged with inciting to riot.

Charges were dismissed against the servicemen at the intervention of Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker, of the judge advocate's staff of the second service command and they were turned over to army authorities for action. "It is unfortunate that the military authorities are interested in getting these men" declared Magistrate Aurelio. "I am sure that each defendant will get his just deserts."

The soldiers were taken to Governors island by military police in an army truck.

Claims of $100,000

Meantime normal traffic was resumed in Harlem with private autos, mobiles, taxis and buses operating for the first time since the rioting, said Police Inspector Edmund J. Meade. While the disorders raged only food and milk trucks were allowed to enter the area and they were provided with police escorts. Harlem merchants whose stores were wrecked and looted by the rioters had filed claims totaling more than $100,000 with the police by Wednesday. Those who could get new supplies of goods to sell, and who were not too much afraid of further rioting, reopened for business. Many stores had boarded windows and empty show cases.

On the boarded windows of some stores there had been painted the following quotation from one of Mayor LaG[illegible]'s broadcasts:

"Don't harm Harlem. Save your honor. Keep the peace."

Other signs read: "Business as usual" and "Business going on."

Close Hotel

Burt Gilbert, owner of the Hotel Braddock where the trouble started Sunday night, voluntarily closed the hotel Wednesday. He first asked the police to withdraw the police detail of six men that had been assigned to raided premises duty there and closed down when this request was refused. Gilbert is awaiting a hearing on the charge of failing to keep a record of all

Humor in the Midst of Harlem's Riot
Washington Tribune
NEW YORK.—One [illegible]
[illegible]em's most popular bar and grill, located on George Washington's "Heat Wave" [illegible] 145th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenue. The popular [illegible] Woods is the barten[illegible] spot who was on duty [illegible] of the building imploring

61-1943

2 Washingtonians Tell What They Saw During Harlem Riot

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

"I Saw Hell Break Loose," Says Jean Murray Smith

By JEAN MURRAY SMITH

WASHINGTON

I saw all hell break loose in Harlem last Sunday night. And had the Germans decided to bomb New York, the destruction couldn't have been worse.

I was sitting in my room in the Theresa Hotel at 8:30 Sunday night when a group of men, women and children smashed the plate glass window of a shoe store on 125th Street and Seventh Avenue. They were yelling, screaming and fighting to steal the merchandise from the windows.

I immediately went down on the street and asked a man what was happening. He said:

"A soldier was shot in the back by a policeman while trying to protect his mother from being beaten. These people are angry enough to tear up Harlem. Lady, you'd better get inside."

About that time a few policemen were in evidence, but the mob had doubled in size and the police made no effort to stop them.

Men, Women, Tots Fight

I saw them hurl boxes, iron pipes and streetcar markers into plate glass store windows. The din was terrific. Men, women and children fought each other like mad to dart in the stores and strip them of everything movable.

They were heedless of falling glass and many dripped blood from being cut.

I saw a woman in the window of Blumstein's Department Store trying on dresses.

One girl with shoes in her hands sat on the curb in front of a policeman and tried them on. When she discovered they didn't fit, she threw them down in disgust, and cursed. The officer looked on but didn't move.

Men and women ran up and down the streets carrying linoleum, armfuls of suits, shoes, whiskey and even furniture. I saw one man with a dresser to a bedroom set on his back.

One Hundred Mobs at Work

Police ran from store to store, but the mob completely ignored them and continued to smash windows and pillage. There were at least a hundred such mobs operating in different parts of Harlem at the same time.

I saw one woman bundle up paper and set fire to a store.

Hundreds of false alarms were turned in and this, plus the unending burglar alarms of stores pillaged, plus the din of crashing glass and yelling mobs, gave the effect of Harlem's being bombed.

At about 2:30, extra reserves of police, mounted and otherwise, were patrolling the streets, but it did no good. As fast as one mob dispersed, another formed.

Pop bottles and bricks were hurled at the police. Police fired into the air, but the mob ignored them.

A Few Sought Revenge

About 10 per cent of the people doing these things were acting on a spirit of revenge and pent up hatred. The other 90 per cent were merely hoodlums and vandals bent on stealing what they could.

WNYC loud-speaker trucks toured the neighborhood pleading with the people to return to their homes and cease their destruction. They were told that Mayor LaGuardia promised a complete investigation.

The mob cheered and booed the speakers, then returned to their looting.

DIX SOLDIERS HELP TO EASE LABOR SHORTAGE

BRIDGETON, N.J. — A large number of Fort Dix soldiers are spending their furloughs working in a local cannery here to help ease the labor shortage.

Thousands of colored persons will be affected by the impending reduction in personnel by the War Department.

A total of 105,000 persons will be dropped from the Army Services Forces by the end of August as a results of the "greater efficiency and the streamlining of operations," it was learned.

Both civilian and military personnel at ASF arsenals, depots, and in other agencies will be affected.

In the War Department's Pentagon Building, about 22 per cent of the 30,000 workers are colored, and the percentage is said to be higher in some other units.

New York

"Who Benefited by Outbreak?" Asks Gladys Collins

By GLADYS COLLINS

WASHINGTON

I witnessed the Harlem riot. I saw, within a few hours, such deliberate vandalism and pandemonium as I hope never to see again.

No better example of the evils of vice and ignorance can be presented than this one which caused so much destruction and misery—the riot in Harlem on Sunday, August 1.

From early Sunday morning until midday Monday, Harlem was a screaming bedlam. Rumor had spread like wildfire that a colored soldier had been shot and instantly killed by a white police officer and, from that moment, Harlem became a shattered and bloody hell.

A Night of Terror

All through the night, shouts and cries of the frenzied rioters and the injured were mingled with the terrifying sounds of plate glass windows being smashed. This went on in almost rhythmic tempo from 110th to 140th Streets along Seventh and Eighth and Lenox Avenues.

Shots rang out; the jingle of broken bottles; the scream of fire engines running up one street and down another. A burglar alarm, set off early in the evening clanged unceasingly all through the night. Often, even it became lost in the uproarous din.

Mayor LaGuardia toured Harlem in a car equipped with amplifiers, pleading with the people to get off the streets and stop rioting. Ironically enough, they cheered him, but the panic was on and there was no stopping them.

Cops Unmoved at First

At first, the police stood by making no effort to stop the ravaging hoodlums. It was when the looting began that the more serious trouble began.

One hundred and twenty-fifth Street was almost completely wrecked. A small department store had decorated its show windows on Saturday with a new display of fur coats and by Monday morning not an article was left in any of its windows. The same was true of many other stores.

People were seen scampering about with arms loaded with everything from bundles of fur coats to bags of sugar, flour and other groceries—even fish.

Even small children carried shopping bags of stolen food and clothing. One juvenile gang had crates of soft drinks, some of which they drank and some they just splashed along the streets.

How Warped Minds Work

One youngster about ten or eleven years old had a box of pepper which he shook into the faces of passersby. This was his version of having fun.

There was no place to buy food, no eating establishments daring to operate in the riot area. Wholesalers refused to deliver foodstuffs to Harlem for fear of being mobbed.

This was NOT a race riot. It was just an excuse for the gangs to wreak as much havoc as their distorted minds could think up.

That was evident in the fact that they began shooting and stabbing one another. The only whites injured were those who happened to be in their way as they went along.

Writer Poses Question

The question now is this:

Who benefited by this display of vandalism? What has been gained? Who has been made to suffer? Who is going to pay for it?

Organized rebellion against unjustifiable infringement is one thing—barbaric destruction and bloodshed without reason or rhyme is quite another, no matter who are the offenders!

And, surely, conscientious thinking colored Americans are not going to let a small percentage of hoodlums (who have nothing to lose anyway) upset and wipe out every progressive move they have striven so hard to make.

We shall fight for our rights, but we are going to do it in a different manner, and we are not going to let any unthinking, or ganized gangs muff our opportunities.

Only Harlem had no milk for its babies, and no meat for its working men and women on Monday morning. Only Harlem was confined within its own barriers.

Again the question is asked: Who benefited?

... I SAW THE HARLEM RIOT

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

By ST. CLAIR KIRTON

In these perilous times when our Nation is called upon to gird itself for total war upon a vicious and ruthless enemy, it behooves us to be ever watchful, lest we use that same energy to destroy ourselves.

No one can deny the fact that the 13 million colored citizens of this country, who like everyone else, are called upon to contribute their various quotas to the security of this nation, are confronted with many inhuman and aggravating problems.

Aside from earning their livelihood, sometimes under trying conditions, and in order for them to live the lives of loyal and peaceful citizens, oftimes it becomes necessary for them to exercise an abnormal amount of tolerance, of letting things pass with little or no resentment.

If water is poured into a vessel a drop at a time without any let-up, it will eventually overflow. If an undue amount of air is blown into a non-porous bag, it will "blow," and the sound and effect undoubtedly will be unpleasant. Colored people have had an undue portion of this world's displeasures brought upon them by acts, many of which have been wilful and deliberate.

Let no one think that the effects of these ill-treatments are localized. To the contrary, their re-actions invariably creep into the core of our entire social system and are consequently felt by all.

Such is the case of the Harlem riot of which I was an eye-witness. A soldier was shot by a policeman, rumors spread like wild-fire, and consequences are beyond description, the sufferings and misery frightful. One version was that the soldier was shot and killed while trying to protect his mother.

Less than 10 hours after the first rumor 95 per cent of the store windows in the entire Harlem district were smashed, the contents of the stores looted.

Friends and foe suffered alike in the hands of the police, who lost by wage-earners; production for deliveries of foodstuffs was crippled and millions (There were no deliveries in the affected area.) People of dollars of damage done to restaurants and accep-property.

The lives of law-abiding citizens they, to their everlasting credit were no willing to cooperate with city rigidly obeyed his orders. Harlem in the effect authorities were constantly in lem was suddenly robbed of its crowdd restau jeopardy. It seemed that the enterprising spirit; its gaity and t they could get; others I stood at a window of the least provocation on the part of hospitality. Harlem had become ad to be co contented with what Harlem "Y" and saw a man the police would have set the a scene of the affects of vio- they could p purchase from small break a big plate glass window stage for wholesale slaughter. lence. stores. Hundreds re-in a tailoring establishment

Fortunately, the sympathetic Here and were engaged in the variety store away from work, many across the cries of "Shame": "Nothing has at the advice and understanding Mayor La- been gained"; "What are we go- of their employ- and emerged with a large bolt Guardia issued orders that tied ers. Thousands of dollars wereof cloth.

The deep underlying cause of the disorder is the vicious social system which segregates and discriminates on account of color. For had equal opportunities been in practice; had merit been the yardstick of progress; had greed and selfishness and the failure to practice what is being preached here been given their exit long ago or at least now that we are at war and have a burning desire to win, no sinister hand would have dared to strike.

This writer only hopes that here in our midst "the powers that be" will grasp the opportunity to lead the Nation in fairness to its colored citizens; granting them their rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Boston has led before. May she lead again!

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Riot Figures Get Court Hearings

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — The cases of the two women accused of helping to precipitate the Harlem riot were disposed of in the Felony Court, last week.

Miss Margie Polite, 21, whose attempted removal from the Braddock Hotel by a policeman, brought Pvt. Robert Bandy to her aid, was found guilty of disorderly conduct. Sentence was deferred.

Mrs. Florine Roberts, 40, charged with aiding Bandy, her son who was shot, was held in $1000 bail for the grand jury. Bandy was released earlier to military authorities.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Harlem Returns To Normal Following Sunday's Disturbance; More Arrests

Harlem breathed more normally this week. Shinning new plate glass windows in a majority of the wrecked stores glinted in the sunlight as if offering reassurance that the wave of violence which swept the community a week ago Sunday had passed. Here and there, however, boarded up fronts still gave mute testimony to the fury of the mobs. Inside, scarcity of merchandise in a number of cases also served to refresh vividly the minds of shoppers of the destruction and pillage which had held sway.

The heavy police guard which covered the entire section for the first half of last week has been reduced considerably, although it is still above normal. The air of tension which figuratively smothered the community in thick waves immediately following the close of the violence has lifted.

Efforts of police to track down loot carried away during the outbreak continued during the week and piles of assorted merchandise grew in the local police stations, merchant victims of the mob vandalism were being summoned to try and identify such pieces as they could recognize as having been stolen from their shops.

Significant of the community post-riot feeling was an incident on Fifth avenue between 132nd and 133rd streets last Thursday evening when a crowd gathered and applauded Ptl. Joseph Cavano for arresting a man who had thrown a brick through the plate glass window of a vegetable store at 2168 Fifth avenue. As Cavano took the man, who was identified as Edward Williams, 61, unemployed, into custody, the bystanders yelled: "That's the stuff, officer. Take him away. The likes of him has caused enough trouble up here."

Williams was later held in $250 bail for hearing by Magistrate Raphael P. Koenig in Night Court on a charge of malicious mischief.

Trials of those arrested during the rioting began last week. First to be convicted was a man who identified himself as Herman Banks, 40, of 142nd street and Convent avenue. Arrested at 126th street and Eighth avenue shortly after midnight the Sunday of the disturbance, Banks was found guilty in Special Session of carrying a knife, was ordered held without bail for sentence this Friday.

Justice Frederick L. Hackenburg who, with Presiding Justice George B. DeLuca and Justice William B. Northrup, heard a number of cases, including that of Banks, refused to parole any of the defendants pending trial. "We don't want to coddle people," he said. "Five persons lost their lives (the official death count is 6) and we don't want another riot."

Of about sixty cases which came up in Felony Court before Magistrates Thomas H. Cullen, Jr., and Samuel Orr, three defendants pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, drew sentences of sixty, twenty and ten days. Thirty one other cases received postponed hearing and twenty one others waived hearing and were held for General or Special Sessions.

Thursday morning at 8 o'clock seal bars and liquor stores reopened as the ban was lifted. Among the bars reopening was the Braddock, scene of the incident blamed for starting the riot. The Hotel Braddock was closed by the owner however, reportedly after authorities refused to remove six policemen stationed there because it was "raided premises."

"Herd Instinct"

Meanwhile, although officially the disturbance was described as "not a race riot," in unofficial circles discussion pro and con was rampant. Canadian clergyman Dr. Samuel Henry Prince of Halifax, in a sermon at St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church, 122 West 69th street, Sunday, declared it was not a race riot and attributed the violence to "herd instinct."

"The Harlem horror," said Rev. Prince, "(was) a tragic example of how human beings, like stampeding cattle, may sometimes run as wild." He disagreed with those who attempted to explain the outbreak "in terms of price-ceilings, race prejudice or poor housing" and suggested "an education [illegible] training for citizenship, wider opportunities for the ownership of property, wholesome recreation and a vital religion which stresses self-possession and social responsibility."

On the opposite side of the audience was New York Post Columnist Dorothy Norman who discussed the riot Monday.

"Although last week's violence in Harlem was not a race riot in the popular sense of the term, we must not be blind to the fact that the grievances causing the disturbance had distinct and manifest racial origins," wrote Miss Norman.

Individuals and organizations of both races were featured in the many reactions which sprung into being during the week to insure against another such outbreak of violence. In a program aimed at the youth of Harlem on whom considerable blame for the destruction and pillaging has been laid, the CDVO launched last week a series of gatherings for youngsters at P.S. 164. Duke Ellington, the famed bandleader, appeared as guest at the first one and sponsors of the series announced that an imposing list of celebrities has been compiled from which will be selected other guests to entertain the youngsters.

Mayor LaGuardia Praised

Mayor LaGuardia continued to receive praise for his actions in coping with the outbreak this week. Among the organizations sending him official statements were the Metropolitan Chapter, National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; the Citizens Committee, The Beauticians Volunteer Corps; the Lay Committee of the Harlem Branch, Community Service Society; Housewives League; Ministers' Wives Association of Greater New York, Brooklyn and Vicinity; Negro Women, Inc.; Physicians' Wives League; National Maritime Union Women's Auxiliary and the Utility Club.

Seeking national recognition of the conditions which they consider responsible for the Harlem outbreak and which are viewed as making for general racial tension all over the country, Ferdinand C. Smith, chairman, and Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, [illegible] President Roosevelt last Friday urging him to make "racial tolerance and unity of the American people" the subject of his next fireside chat.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HARLEM RIOT LAID TO HERD INSTINCT

Dr. Prince Holds It Shows How Humans Can Stampede

The Rev. [illegible] Samuel Henry Prince of [illegible], Canada, attributed last week's rioting in Harlem to "heightened suggestibility due to mass living and the constant stimulation of crowd mentality by a tabloid press, an emotional microphone, stampede politics and gregarious religion" in a sermon yesterday at St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church, 122 West Sixty-ninth Street.

Expressing disagreement with those who attempted to explain "the Harlem horror in terms of price-ceilings, race prejudice or poor housing," Dr. Prince declared the rioting was but "a tragic example of how human beings, like stampeding cattle, may sometimes run as wild."

"The herd instinct," he said, "once essential to group survival in pre-historic times, now remains a potential danger and an ever-present peril in modern urban living. The herd instinct must be exorcised as anti-social and anti-Christian."

Toward this end he suggested efforts to provide "as prophylactics against mob-mindedness an education which trains for citizenship, wider opportunities for the ownership of property, strengthening of familism, wholesome recreation and a vital religion which stresses self-possession and social responsibility."

Randolph Views Riot With Sorrow, Distress

New York, N. Y.
Amsterdam News

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
(Director, March on Washington Movement)

I view the outburst of violence in Harlem Sunday night with great sorrow and distress. As a resident of this community for some 30 years and the head of two important movements, one a trade union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, affiliated with the A. F. of L., and the other a civic organization, the March on Washington Movement, I am gravely concerned about the people in the Harlem community demonstrating their capacity in co-operation with Mayor LaGuardia's law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order. No minority group can survive and go progressively forward where there is no law and order. Violence and bloodshed is not the road to racial peace and co-operation and community racial advancement. Violence begets violence, bloodshed begets bloodshed and always the minority groups are the chief victims.

Negroes must stand up and fight for their constitutional and economic rights with the ballot, constructive agitation, education through moral religious labor organizations and all means lawful and orderly, of social protest. I know I can speak for 99% of the great mass of Negroes of Harlem that we are definitely and unqualifiedly opposed to all forms of hoodlumism, the destruction of property, the attack upon shopkeepers and any disregard for law enforcements.

Wants Commission Named

Now, as the representative of the aforementioned organizations, I want to urge upon the Mayor the immediate appointment of a Commission on Race to study the causes of this social and racial explosion in the Harlem community and the basic causes of racial riots that are sweeping the country and threatening various communities. We need a thorough and uncompromising investigation of the question of

STORES REOPEN

brick during the disorders, said the number of policemen patrolling Harlem had been reduced considerably, that food stores had replenished their stocks, and traffic as today for the first time since rioting of last Sunday caused death of [illegible] injuries to 261 persons in the Negro and [illegible] borhood.

Police Capt. Walter C. Harding, who was hit on the head with a

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

AGAIN: LIQUOR

HARLEM NORMAL

Peace Settles Over Harlem As Leaders Seek Solution To Rioting

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12—As Harlem tried to settle back to normalcy with all police restrictions lifted and the 8,000 National Guard soldiers departed from the city, the causes and cure of the mob violence which occurred here on "Black Sunday" (August 1) continue to be hotly debated by leaders, social agencies, labor organizations and city authorities. Among the developments of the week were: The final, grim count issued by police headquarters: Six dead, 543 injured and more than 500 arrested. One of the previously announced dead was found to have been killed in a private brawl. Fingerprinting of 350 of those arrested showed 120 with previous criminal records, including Neil Lucas and Vincent Randolf, both shot by police when resisting arrest after being caught looting.

HOTEL CLOSED

Burt Gilbert, owner of the Braddock hotel, 272 W. 126th street, closed his establishment indefinitely after repeated appeals to police authorities to withdraw seven policemen stationed there. His hotel was the scene of the fight between Officer James Collins and Pvt. Robert Bandy early Sunday evening, which touched off the rumor and the spark which developed into the riot.

Bandy was arraigned before Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio in Felony court on a charge of felonious assault. At the request of Lt. Col. A. A. Miller, assistant on the staff of the Judge Advocate General's office of the Second Service Command, stationed on Governor's Island, the magistrate discharged Bandy and ordered him turned over to the military authorities. Bandy is 26; was attached to the 714th Military Police battalion.

REDUCES BAIL FOR SOLDIER'S MOTHER

Also turned over to the military authorities were Pvt. James Logwood, 21, AAF, stationed at Mitchell Field, accused of inciting to riot by making inflammatory statements after a crowd began gathering; Pvt. Robert Dancie, 731st Military Police battalion, and Pvt. Oscar Johnson, of the 372nd Infantry, now in training at the Aqueduct race track, near here.

Mrs. Florine Roberts, 40, of Middletown, Conn. (Bandy's mother), had her bail reduced from $10,000 to $1,000. She is accused of aiding her son in assaulting Patrolman Collins outside the Braddock hotel, while he was arresting Miss Margie Polite, of 368 W. 127th street. The latter is still held in $10,000 bail on a variety of charges.

The first of the rioters to be convicted was Herman Banks, 40, of 142nd street and Convent avenue, who was found guilty of carrying a knife in the riot. Judge George B. DeLuca, who presided, and Associate Justices Frederick L. Hackenburg and William B. Northrup held Banks without bail for sentence. Banks was arrested one block fom the vortex of the frenzied looting of stores.

Earlier Justice Hackenburg refused to parole any defendants pending trial. "We don't want to coddle people," he said. "Six persons lost their lives and we don't want another riot."

Some [illegible] in Felony court before Magistrate Thomas H. Cullen, Jr., and Samuel Orr. Three defendants, first charged with burglary, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, and individually received sentences of 60 days, 20 days and 10 days. In 31 other cases, hearings were postponed. In 21 others, the defendants were held for General Sessions or Special Sessions courts.

CIO ASKS END OF DISCRIMINATION

Other developments were:

The New York CIO Committee for the Abolition of Racial Discrimination called for ending segregation in the armed forces, rollbacks of food and clothing prices, rent freezing, improvement of health and recreation services in Harlem, and the establishment of a public food market here.

The City-Wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem made public a letter to the Mayor commending him and the police for the measures taken during the riot, but taking the administration to task for failure to eliminate the basic causes of such outbreaks.

The letter pointed out that "natural resentment and the suffering of an underprivileged minority group were responsible for the disturbance."

SCORES MAYOR FOR INACTION

The committee asserted that after a similar outbreak in 1935, the recommendations of an administration - appointed investigating group were largely ignored, and the report, to all intents and purposes, suppressed.

"Numerous citizens and citizens' groups have insisted on the critical nature of the crime and delinquency situation in New York. The Mayor's attitude has consistently been that of minimizing the problem and of reducing appropriations for corrective services," the commitete charged.

The Mayor was also under attack from the Metropolitan Council on Fair Employment Practice, which met at the office of the War Manpower Commision, 11 W. 42nd street. It represents a score of civic groups, social agencies and interracial organizations.

"We cannot excuse the failure of the Mayor to take positive action during the period of unrest preceding the riots," the council's statement declared. "This in spite of the fact that all organizations, with the situation [illegible] with him to his failure by taking action now, in the broadest and most co-operative manner, to prevent future outbreaks. Among the underlying causes of the outbreak, its investigation found:

1. **Deep and accumulated resentment over the denial of equal employment opportunities for Negroes, both in hiring and upgrading.**
2. **Today there are many war- and non-war industries, not fully using Negro skills.**

Among the recommendations of the council are:

Co-operation with [illegible] organizations, to set up hearings in local communities at which persons from all walks of life will be urged to participate actively in the fight against discrimination.

ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE SCORES VIOLENCE

Set up a "Rumor Clinic" in Harlem where people can check the truthfulness of malicious rumors, against both colored and whites, respecting intolerance and discrimination. The council intends to inaugurate its program, regardless of the Mayor's co-operation.

In a statement to The Pittsburgh Courier, Prof. James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman, Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi league, declared:

"Mob violence, wherever found, must be permanently stopped with the aid of all citizens, regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin. We are engaged in a global war for our very lives. We cannot afford mob violence in peace. In time of war, it becomes a national menace. At the same time we must exert every effort to remove the causes of looting and vandalism, wherever it is found. Long speeches and fine statements to the press are not much help."

Prof. Willard W. Waller, Department of Sociology, Columbia university, warned that the nation may expect more of such disorders "unless there is a well-thought-out, intelligent and determined attempt to deal with the fundamental problems of race relations, in war and peace." He said that "the rioting here and in other cities is symptomatic of a fundamental cleavage in American society."

Meanwhile, the first positive step to alleviate the widespread tension in Harlem was taken by the Office of Price Administration. Prices of food and clothing in Harlem will undergo a close scrutiny from now on, with the week-end establishment of a branch field office of the New York district of OPA.

It will be located in the basement of the 135th Street library, near Lenox avenue.

MAY OPEN PLAYGROUNDS

Franz Byrd, colored, of 22 Morningside avenue, employed in the price division of the OPA, has been appointed administrative officer, under H. Woodruff Bissel, chief district price officer, who will be in charge.

Food price specialist will be Roy Lancaster, colored, of the price division. Charles Weller will be apparel price-expert. There will be 20 paid employees, including 10 inspectors and 35 volunteers.

Tuesday, last week, the City Council passed a resolution calling on the Mayor and the Board of Education to open all school playgrounds for the rest of the summer. Arguments were advanced that dearth of recreational facilities provoked the 'teen-age youths to disorders.

Harlem Riot Censored

LONDON, Aug. 12 (ANP)—Not until Tuesday did London newspapers receive reports concerning the Sunday riots in Harlem. The U. S. censor released the news Wednesday. Two newspapers featured the line, "Riot Kept Secret Three Days."

Harlem Riot

Post
Washington, D. C

A Communication

AS I write I am in New York City. The riot, started by Negroes last night is still on, but seems smoldering towards its end. The Negroes did all the rioting, practically unopposed, except in a few instances where the police interfered.

It was not a race riot, white people were not attacked. It was just a rogue's riot. Stores and shops were broken into and goods of all kinds were taken and carried out. It was a looter's holiday—groceries, meats, vegetables, shoes, clothes, fur coats, everything from the drug stores except the bad medicines. In the part of the town where I watched the riot, the police, evidently at the suggestion of the mayor, were firing blank cartridges or firing into the air. The mayor perhaps intended to leave the burden on the Negroes this time and not to help their leaders to shout and publish all over the Nation that the police killed the Negroes—even though those Negroes were doing the things for which people are supposed to be killed in all riots—making a wholesale attack on everybody's property, with the great threat of fire and death violence.

Rioting Started

The rioting started at 125th st. early Sunday night and ranged on uptown to 145th st. before morning light. They smashed glass and doors and gates; they stole liquor and canned goods and cleaned out the "cleaning shops." They carted the stuff off in bundles and baskets and parcels. Two young women even called a taxi because their loot was too burdensome to carry. One hardware store on Eighth ave., between 139th and 140th sts., run by a Russian [illegible] who has been friendly and very helpful to the Negro population for about 20 years, was entered and plundered like all the others.

A Negro military policeman was shot through the shoulder by a city policeman (incidentally, of the white race) in a dingy hotel lobby on 126th st., near 8th ave. But why and how? That Negro M. P. had attacked the policeman, knocked him down with the stick which he had taken from the policeman, and was running away when winged. You see, Uncle Sam's soldiers are being ruined by the many rotten women whom they contact in some hotels, and this policeman had been placed in the lobby of this hotel many weeks ago to help save the boys. On this Sunday he stopped a green Negro soldier coming in with a prostitute of another race because the policeman knew what was in store for the soldier. The Negroes gathered around and the M. P., from New Jersey, came in to show his authority, as if he did not know that a military policeman in New York City, so long as it is not under military rule, has no authority over the city police.

Fight Started

A fight was started, the Negro knocking down the policeman, who then shot as his assailant,

plain when either white people or black people are at the wrong end. The Mayor did not want it said that the Police Department of New York had discriminated against Negroes and therefore they were for the first night allowed to run away almost unmolested, by the many thousands. It was a rascal's paradise.

This morning on Seventh Avenue at 138th st. I passed a delicatessen, and a Negro crowd was emptying it of its goods, at 11 o'clock. They had put small children inside to hand out the stuff through the broken window glass. The police strolled by in their bullet-proof metal hats and did not even look at it. Later, when I returned that way, the crowd had been dispersed and five policemen were stationed guard.

I hear that six people have been killed—all Negroes, of course; but not because they were Negroes, but because they were looters, and only Negroes were looting. When things happen against colored people or colored soldiers, it is unsafe to make an automatic outcry about injustice and oppression. It is best to find out what is back of it. Sometimes there is a Negro back of it.

WILLIAM PICKENS.

GUILTY IN RIOT CASE

Times

AUG 3 1943

Woman Whose Attack Started Harlem Disorders Is Fined in Court

The two Negro women whose attack on a uniformed policeman in the lobby of the Hotel Braddock, Eighth Avenue and 126th Street, on the night of Aug. 1 started the Harlem rioting, received hearings yesterday in the Felony Court. Margie Polite, 33 years old, of 308 West 127th Street, was found guilty of disorderly conduct by Magistrate McGee, after an additional charge of feloniously assaulting the patrolman had been dropped. She will be sentenced Friday.

New York, N. Y.

AUG 6 1943

Mrs. Florine Roberts, 40, a servant for a family at Middletown, Conn., was held in $1,000 bail to await the action of the grand jury on a charge she also feloniously attacked the patrolman, aided by her son, Private Robert Bandy, a member of the military policy. Bandy tried to wrest the policeman's pistol from him, and was shot and slightly wounded. Subsequently he was discharged in court and turned over to the Army for disciplinary action.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Daily Worker

New York, N. Y.

AUG 6 1943



The Skeleton of Harlem Can No Longer Be Closeted by Official New York

By MIKE GOLD

What happened in Harlem recently seems to have been a huge looting party, along the lines of those pogroms conducted against Jewish storekeepers in Nazi Germany and Czarist Russia.

But in those European looting parties, the thing was well organized by cruel masters of provocation. The Czar's officials had a definite political object in organizing such looting riots. They were trying to turn the minds of famished peasants away from the royal taxes and the royal grafters that oppressed them. Thus, the Jews were a convenient scapegoat that would permit the peasants to wreak their resentment of social injustice which otherwise might fall upon the Czardom. The Nazis used the same scapegoat politics to divert the minds of the German people away from capitalist injustice, and the Nazi capitalist state.

But in Harlem, nothing of this pattern seems to have been found. All reporters agree that the looting was spontaneous.

"There was larceny in their hearts, not murder," is the way one reporter phrased it.

Ralph Ellison paints the picture of something pathetic and naive. He observed an old woman passing by with her arms loaded with loot. She was muttering, "Forgive me, Jesus, have mercy, Lord." A religious woman, she believed she was committing a sin in taking goods not her own. But everyone was doing it, and she could not resist joining them in grabbing some free food.

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"One woman called it a 'colored man's New Year,'" Ellison says. He saw young black boys dressed in blonde wigs, silk hats and morning coats who were dancing inthe street. A man went past with boxes of soap powder he had looted, yelling, "I gotta keep clean, ain't I?"

Ellison reported a gang of young hoodlums dressed in military fatigue suits they had looted from an Army and Navy haberdashery. They were pretending to drill under the orders of two Negro M.P. sergeants.

A man yelled at a woman, "Get you some shoes for your baby, lady."

"I ain't got no baby," she protested.

"Well, here. Take some for yourself," he said, forcing a pair upon her.

All of which is pathetic and naive enough, and shows no evidence of being organized looting or the murderous scapegoating that went on in Czarist Russia and Nazi Germany.

Also, the prompt mobilization of the thoughtful elements of Harlem, the forming of a committee of Harlem notables to take the situation in hand, the self-restraint of the police force, the addition of a thousand Negro volunteers to aid the police, and other such organized measures displayed a different pattern from that at Berlin, Germany or Detroit, Michigan.

On the other hand, the looting may have well been started by some of the fascist hoodlums organized by a Negro Hitler some years ago, around whom Carl Offord wrote a powerful novel which was reviewed in this column a few days before the riots.

Jewish storekeepers in Harlem before this have been victims of a strange and perverted Negro Nazism, purchased by German dollars and whipped up by quislings of Harlem. In the social events of today, spontaneity generally follows in the footsteps of skillful organizers of race hatred and anti-democracy riots.

In the main, however, most reporters, Negro and white, agree that our Mayor was swift, able and all-out in his measures to quench the flames that the police force was not partial, as at Detroit, but gave the Negro people a fair break, and that New York showed more understanding and justice in delaing with this outbreak than has any other American city.

Which is all to the good. But it does not yet solve anything. Maybe New York alone cannot solve this terrible problem, which is national, and international. The Jim-Crow system in the army, whereby Negro soldiers are treated as inferiors, has burned deep bars of shame and anger into the minds of the colored people of America. The dirty old schools, the lack of playgrounds, the unemployment and segregation that Harlem endures in its ghetto, all form a permanent material that bubbles and moans at the core of America, just under the top soil. This Harlem "riot" was but a little outbreak of the old racial volcano. If we learn a lesson from it, and hasten to do something before the lid blows off, it will not have been in vain.

* * *

Some observers like Ellison think that was all a spontaneous, unorganized revolt of dumb masses against economic conditions.

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Others believe it was a spontaneous answer to army Jim-Crowism, since it started with the mishandling of a Negro military policeman and his mother by a white cop.

Others point out that Harlem is subjected to unusual rent gouging and food profiteering. Prices are highest in Harlem for everything; and wages for Negro workers are still lowest of all.

Whatever the causes, let us hope that white New Yorkers including our Mayor will no longer ignore the many wrongs done our Negro brothers and fellow-Americans.

Despite this outbreak, I believe it to be true that New York still gives its Negro population a better break than any other American city in the way of employment and access to public amusements, etc.

But it is not yet justice, nor even a chance to life, liberty and happiness. Mayor LaGuardia, for example, completely supressed a remarkable report made on Harlem conditions by a citizens' committee he named after another shameful riot in 1935. Why did he choose to forget it all? Why does white official New York, white respectability and white wealth always ignore the skeleton in our closet, the disease, poverty and discrimination in which Harlemites are condemned to live?

AUG 6 1943

But there is progress, nevertheless. And the Harlem looters, pathetic and naive, or perhaps led by Nazi-paid agents, have not helped to keep progress marching. A riot such as this poisons many more minds against the Negro than it helps to win to sympathy and understanding. That Negro leaders and progressives understand this and work against violence is also a sign that we are nearer to united front of Negro and white citizens in carrying on America's great war against the Hitlerite race mongers abroad and at home.

Birmingham Post

Birmingham, Alabama

AUG 3 1943

HARLEM IS QUIET -AFTER BLOODY RIOT

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—Harlem was quiet today as authorities investigated yesterday's bloody riot which resulted in five deaths, more than 500 injuries, 500 arrests and an estimated five million dollars property damage.

Police stood guard over the thickly-populated Negro district to prevent recurrence of fighting, looting, arson and robbery.

Backing up police were 8000 New York State Guardsmen from the metropolitan area, who assembled at their armories last night in readiness to enter the debris-littered area should the disturbances break out again.

A volunteer civilian patrol of 1500 residents, mostly Negroes, helped keep the peace. City patrol units, military police and air raid wardens were on guard.

A 10:30 p. m. curfew imposed by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia kept virtually all of the district's 300,000 Negro residents indoors all night.

ALEXANDER B. NEWELL.

The people of Harlem are religious,
Each day they sing and pray;
They pray to God Almighty,
To show them the righteous way.
But the hoodlums who live in Harlem,
Who drink, swear and fight;
Are really the ones who started
The riot, in Harlem, that night.

They started throwing bottles,
While some raided stores;
Many were breaking windows,
Others were smashing doors.
Hoodlums had their bundles,
And started down the street;
They didn't get very far,
For the cops were on the beat.

I'll never forget, it was a sight;
The riot in Harlem that Sunday night;
Some were cool, some were hot,
Many were stabbed, many were shot.
The streets were wrecked,
As far as one could see
It was a riot
That really didn't have to be
The traffic was stopped
And could not run,
That rioting night
In HAR-LEM!

OCT 2 - 1943

ESCAPADING in BROOKLYN with TOMMY WATKINS

"THE HARLEM RIOT"

(As Penned By a Brooklynite)

"It was a peaceful day in Harlem,
Until that Sunday night;
People were cut to have some fun
But it ended in a fight.
It started over a woman,
That's how it all begun;
Many of them had a knige,
And others had a gun.



Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

Statement of Harlem Citizen Group

AUG 2 1943

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The following is the statement of Harlem citizens' group signed by each of 250 attending emergency meeting yesterday at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. Signers included Congressman Vito Marcantonio, Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack, Ben Davis, Jr., Councilman A. Clayton Powell and Eugene P. Connolly.

AUG 3 1943

"We, a group of citizens representing church, civic, labor organizations, composed of both white and Negro membership, commend Mayor LaGuardia for his prompt and proper handling of the disturbances in the Harlem community and pledge to him and the people of New York our aid in the restoration of law and order and the return to normalcy.

AUG 3 1943

"While recognizing the many just grievances of the Negro people, and agreeing on uniting our support for the elimination of the underlying social causes, we nevertheless unanimously assert that the first responsibility of all concerned is the restoration of law and order in the city and the resumption of normal, every-day activities.

"We call upon all citizens concerned with the maintenance of unity of the American people to lend their full and immediate support to the leaders of the city and the community for the ending of the present disturbances. We further call upon all citizens to disavow all rumors and activities which would attempt to extend the present disturbances or would attempt to create racial conflict from them. Unlike Detroit, Beaumont and other centers where outbreaks have recently occurred, there have been no racial conflicts in this city. Any attempt to incite racial division will only prevent the opportunities to the agents of fascism to interfere with the effective prosecution of the war."

AUG 3 1943

NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY

We can all breathe more easily today. New York City has had a shocking outbreak of hoodlumism, several lives have been lost, several hundred persons have been injured and some millions of dollars' worth of property has been destroyed but we have not had a race riot. The rioters fought the police, among them some Negro policemen, but there were no attacks by Negro civilians on white people or by white civilians on Negroes. The tinder blazed but it did not set the city on fire.

AUG 4 1943

For this reassuring outcome we can thank Mayor La Guardia, who did not sleep until order had been restored. We can thank him for his prompt and vigorous action and for the fair-mindedness which brought immediate cooperation from both white and Negro leaders. We can be grateful to those leaders of both races who worked with the Mayor. We can be proud of Police Commissioner Valentine and his men, who set an example of even-handed enforcement of the laws. We can appreciate more than ever the good citizenship of the overwhelming majority of our Harlem neighbors, who kept their heads under trying circumstances.

We can be pretty sure that if race riots did not break out in Harlem and other parts of the city under the excitements and incitements of Sunday night's events they will not break out in this city. But this comforting thought does not relieve any of us, white or Negro, of responsibility. If any part of our population suffers from grievances we must do what we can to redress them.

New York, N. Y.

What are the grievances of Harlem? Councilman A. Clayton Powell Jr. mentions among other things "the unusual high rents and cost of living forced upon the Negroes in Harlem." The City-Wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem recommends the opening of playgrounds, recreational facilities and summer schools in the Harlem area and the immediate enforcement of price ceilings in this city. It is obvious that not all causes of discontent, not even all just causes, can be eliminated at once. The problem is national, even international.

Times

But New York City can do something to improve conditions in Harlem, not because they affect Negro people as such but because they affect citizens as such. Even in the good deeds we hope to do we ought to forget as much as we can the element of race. Harlem doesn't want special favors. It wants fair play, which means simply the same opportunities and facilities that other people and other parts of the city enjoy. It has shown its loyalty by helping to suppress its hoodlums. Let the rest of the city join loyally to change the conditions which produce hoodlums.

10-Point Proposals Follow Harlem Riot

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

SEP 23 1943

NEW YORK — (ANP) — A 10-point platform of recommendations designed to prevent other distrubances such as the Harlem race riot, was released Sunday by the Citizens' Committee on Better Race Relations, a group of 60 Negro leaders, originally called by A. Philip Randolph, who also heads the March on Washington Committee, and formed to investigate the causes behind the Harlem disorders which occurred on August 1.

The committee claims the riot which left five dead, several hundred injured and estimated property damage of $5,000,000 was brought on by the ever-present problems of isolation, segregation and discrimination facing the Negro almost everywhere in the country. It termed the disturbance a "social explosion."

Committee members believe that the Harlem riot perhaps will make it possible for Negro leaders to reach the ear of federal, state and city officials, to get these officials to listen to, and put into effect, recommendations which Negro leaders and community agencies have been attempting to get action on for years.

The 10 recommendations are the following:

SEP 23 1943

1. That the mayor call upon the President to issue a national proclamation abolishing segregation, discrimination and jim crowism in the armed forces and in the government everywhere.

2. That the President issue an order calling on the Red Cross to discontinue its jim crow blood bank forthwith.

3. That the mayor appoint two Negroes ,one as a member of the board of education, the other to serve on the executive administration staff of the board of education.

SEP 23 1943

3. That the mayor appoint a Negro as one of his banking secretaries.

5. That the mayor appoint a Negro deputy police commissioner.

SEP 23 1943

6. That the mayor confer with the merchants of Harlem, the markets department and the OPA on correcting the wide differentials existing in quality and quantity of foodstuffs and other commodities sold in Harlem.

7. That the mayor appoint a Negro to the administration staff of the city war council to co-ordinate to civilian defense activities of the council in relation to Negro participation.

8. That the mayor appoint a commission on race relations consisting of representatives of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities, and that this commission be empowered to accept and consider recommendations to be made on race relations in the city.

9. That the number of playstreets and playgrounds be increased in Harlem.

10. That the city acquire buildings in Harlem for indoor musical concerts, skating rinks, dancing and other recreational activities.

Six Negroes Are Slain In Night Of Fighting With Harlem Police

Birmingham, Ala.

Trouble Not Racial, Says Mayor; Declares Situation Under Control

News

AUG 2 1943

NEW YORK —(AP)— Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia declared disorders in Harlem were under control Monday after a night of outbreaks in which six Negroes were killed, 195 persons, mostly Negroes, and 40 policemen were injured, and more than 380 persons arrested as looting of stores continued.

In his third radio appeal since trouble started Sunday night when a policeman shot a Negro who was attempting to interfere with the officer's arrest of a Negro woman in a hotel lobby, the mayor emphasized what he had said earlier:

"This was not a race riot. There was no conflict between groups of our citizens. What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people. Shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem district.

"These thoughtless hoodlums had no one to fight with. They gave vent to their feelings by breaking windows and looting stores."

Six thousand policemen were on duty in Harlem and all police leaves were canceled. Firemen patrolled streets where stores had been looted and special subway police guarded stairways and subway stations on the interborough and independent lines.

AUG 2 1943

All traffic was stopped in the Harlem area and business there was at a standstill. Liquor stores were closed on the order of the mayor.

* * *

THE WEST 123RD STREET police station, established as headquarters for operations of the authorities, was cluttered with meat, clothing, furniture, liquor, canned goods and groceries, picked up from the streets where they had been abandoned by looters.

In his latest radio speech, delivered after an unoccupied automobile had been burned and a white man attacked, but rescued by Negro soldiers, in Monday's fresh outbreaks, the mayor said:

"I expect from the people of Harlem the fullest cooperation Monday and Monday night and until complete order is restored. Traffic will be limited. . . . We want to keep people from other parts of the city away from Harlem. Any who attempt to enter the damaged stores in Harlem will be prosecuted to the fullest."

At 10 a.m., 167 Negroes had been booked at the Harlem Armory Building, established by police as an emergency headquarters to handle arrests. Another 50 persons had been arrested and booked at the Harlem Police Station.

* * *

THREE NEGRO MEN were wounded critically early Monday by a detective who reported he shot them as they ran toward him. They were taken to a hospital. The detective said the men were carrying hats and store

AUG 2 1943

dropped them when the officer ordered them to halt, but instead of fleeing they attempted to form a flying wedge to knock down the policeman.

The mayor, Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine, Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh and Negro civic leaders were in conference during the night and the latter announced they would make appeals from amplifiers in strategic locations.

Pedestrians were kept moving or shunted indoors.

Store windows were smashed by looters and clothing stripped from dummies in the windows.

AUG 2 1943

Telephones were ripped from the booths in many stores.

At the West 135th Street Police Station, persons who had gathered at the entrance got a hearty laugh when a young Negro, wearing a high hat and carrying at least a dozen suits of clothing stepped out of a radio car. Police said they found him on the street.

* * *

AT THE BROADCAST
Walter White, executive secretary
of the National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People;
Dr. John
Chaplain
Protestant Episcopal Church, the
largest church in Harlem;
Commissioner of Police Lewis Valentine;
Myles A. Paige, Negro justice of the
Court of Special Sessions, and
Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh
WERE
Lewis J. Valentine
Walsh set up headquarters at the
police station and began taking patients to hospitals from that point.
Three Negro civilians were killed
in Harlem hospitals were overflow-by gunfire, battles and bricks
ing with injured men and women, rained down on police from 6,000
THE MAYOR, POLICE COM-
THE MISSIONER
the majority of police activities
of the city.
Harlem Hospital
Martin's
Cathedral
Fire Commissioner Patrick
Walsh; West 123rd Street
police station
Lewis J. Valentine
being treated in corridors and
ascity, sought to quell the widespread
police
eral Negro civic leaders.

One of the eight shot was a patrolman on special duty in Harlem. His condition was described as serious.

Only police-escorted food and milk delivery trucks will be allowed in the section Monday, the mayor said. All buses will be halted. One crosstown trolley line will operate under police supervision, LaGuardia said.

Six trucks carrying armed troops were sent into the district Sunday night to round up soldiers on leave and get them out of the area.

Vacations for all police officers above the rank of lieutenant were cancelled and those on vacation were ordered home immediately. All police were placed on emergency detail.

Walter White, secretary of the NAACP, conferred with Mayor LaGuardia early Monday and, although minimizing the disturbances, said he had tried to reach Gen. Thomas A. Terry, of the Second Service Command.

White said he could not reach Gen. Terry and talked to Maj. Miller at Governor's Island to ask him that white military police in Harlem be augmented by Negro MPs.

White said that Maj. Miller told him he could offer little encouragement, but added he would consider having a Negro army unit quartered in Harlem to aid police.

PLAIN TALK

By ELMER A. CARTER

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

The Reign Of The Hoodlum

GOD KNOWS THE battle is tough enough as it is without having to divert our forces to beat off attacks from the rear. And that is what happened in New York the other night when for twelve hours (not six as the papers say) the Negro front was savagely attacked from the rear by a riotous gang of hoodlums who carried death and destruction through the streets of Harlem. When their assault was over 300 colored men and women were in hospitals, 500 in jail, and five, possibly more, were dead. And in addition $5,000,000 worth of property had been destroyed.

If the worst enemies of the Negro had deliberately planned to disgrace him and to prove that he is not sufficiently self-controlled to be granted complete equality, they could have found no more effective demonstration than the disgraceful orgy of robbery and looting in which scores of Negroes, young and old, indulged late Sunday night and early Monday morning of August 1st and 2nd in the great Negro area of the world's greatest city. The speed with which vandalism spread seemed to indicate that it was being subtly directed and this possibility deserves exhaustive investigation.

THE EXPLANATION

Negro leaders have given the daily press a multiplicity of reasons and explanations for this outbreak. Discrimination in the army and industry, lack of sufficient recreational opportunities, overcrowding, and a lot of other reasons which come easily to the lips of those who speak for the Negro when he is charged with anti-social behavior. But these reasons seem strangely inadequate as one looks into the bashed in windows of clothing stores, jewelry shops, pawn shops, grocery stores, shoe stores, toggery shops and walk over miles of broken glass that were hemmed in before, now lines will be drawn tighter than ever and that the stigma of lawless, irresponsible community will be fastened upon it for a generation.

It is easy to ascribe this shameful outbreak to social conditions and to resentment provoked by racial discrimination and segregation. Granted there are tensions created by the war and by the bitterness which almost every Negro feels about his shabby treatment in the war effort. But even these things cannot excuse or condone the wanton destruction of property by the mob, even a black mob.

MUST FACE FACTS

We might as well face the cold facts. And the facts are that lawlessness in Harlem has been given impetus by the inability or the unwillingness of police officials to curb it by swift and stern measures; that smarting under the criticism of police brutality in the report of his own commission in 1935, the Mayor, great as his administration unquestionably has been in all other aspects of municipal government, has been curiously ineffective in the direction of police administration of Harlem; that his instructions to the police of Harlem, in order to check and eliminate police brutality, have had the effect of making them hesitant in the enforcement of the law, particularly against youthful offenders and this hesitancy and uncertainty has, on the part of police officers, served to encourage lawlessness among Negro youth.

"We're shackled" has been the answer of scores of patrolmen when asked by various citizens why they did not adopt sterner measures in the suppression of lawlessness in Harlem neighborhoods. As a result, for years colored women have been afraid to go unescorted on certain streets because of fear of robbery. And even on the avenues, our main thoroughfares, they have been constantly subjected to lewd and insulting remarks from corner loafers. Unchecked, these errant youths have grown bolder and defiant. They know Harlem is inadequately policed.

THE FUTURE

A few weeks ago I suggested a plan for the mass renovation of the business places on the great arterial highways which run through Harlem—Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Avenues. The plan called for a cooperative effort of colored and white business men, the banks, the post-war planning committee of the city, the state and the federal government to make these streets beautiful and attractive. The twelve-hour rule of Negro hoodlums of Harlem has made this plan vastly more difficult if not impossible of attainment. For banks don't loan money on property that is in constant danger of being destroyed by riots, and insurance companies won't write business risks in communities where the spirit of vandalism runs unchecked.

Before we can advance, we've got to reform our lines. We have got to eliminate the enemy in our rear. Negro social organizations did a magnificent job in aiding in restoring order after the riot has begun. They must now utilize their resources so that such a thing can never, never happen again. They must end the reign of hoodlums.

Harlem Outbreak Leaves Six Dead And 500 Injured

Daily World

Arrest 359 During 16 Hours of Rioting

Atlanta, Georgia

NEW YORK — (SNS) — The 16 hours of rioting in Harlem, which started late Sunday evening, was well under control late Monday and Mayor F. H. LaGuardia expressed a belief that "all's quiet now." Six colored persons were killed, 500 persons injured, including 44 policemen, and 359 arrested as a result of the outbreak.

During the 16-hour spree, looters smashed shop windows of stores owned by colored and white people. The wartime dimout in the Harlem section was lifted and a 10:30 p. m. curfew ordered.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, member of city council and editor of People's Voice, joined the mayor in asserting that the outbreak was "not a race riot."

Disorders began Sunday night when a policeman shot a colored soldier who allegedly tried to interfere with the arrest of a woman in a hotel lobby.

DISORDER HALTED

The mayor announced that a committee of 1,500 persons, mostly Negroes, armed with nightsticks, and wearing identification bands, would aid authorities in patrolling Harlem's streets in an effort to prevent recurrence of the disorders.

Major General Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, said, meanwhile, that he would not declare Harlem out of Military bounds. General Terry, who conferred with the Mayor, said, however, that all soldiers in the district would be asked to state legitimate reasons for being there.

Mayor LaGuardia made several radio appeals after the trouble started Sunday night. In his third radio appeal, the Mayor said:

"This was not a race riot. There was no conflict between groups of our citizens. What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people. Shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem district.

"These thoughtless hoodlums had no one to fight with. They gave vent to their feelings by breaking windows and looting stores."

DEAD LISTED

The dead were listed by police as: Vincent Randolph, 35, Savannah, Ga.; Stanley Stokes, 20, Savannah; Frank Stoner, 20, address not given; Michael Young, 43, 271 West 113th St., New York; Neil Lucas, no address, and another unidentified man.

Six thousand policemen were on duty in Harlem and all police leaves were cancelled. Firemen patrolled streets where stores had been looted and special subway police guarded stairways and subway stations on the Interborough and independent lines.

All traffic was stopped in the Harlem area and business there was at a standstill, Luquor stores were closed on the order of the Mayor.

The West 123rd Street police station, established as headquarters for operations of the authorities, was cluttered with meat, clothing, furniture, liquor, canned goods and groceries, picked up from the streets where they had been abandoned by looters.

VARIOUS CHARGES

Charges against those held were varied, and included burglary, unlawful entry, incitant riots, receiving stolen property and grand larceny. There was one complaint of disorderly conduct.

Three colored men ware wounded critically early Monday by a detective who reported he shot them as they ran toward him. They were taken to a hospital. The detective said the men were carrying hats from a store and dropped them when the officer ordered them to halt, but instead of fleeing, they attempted to form a flying wedge to knock him down.

The mayor, Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine, Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh and Negro civic leaders were in conference Sunday night and the latter announced they would make appeals from amplifiers set up in strategic locations.

Pedestrians were kept moving or shunted indoors.

Harlem Riot Costs Taverns 3-4 Million Dollars in Liquor

Afro-American

NEW YORK — Fully three-fourths of the $1,000,000 damages suffered by Harlem's restaurants and taverns during the disturbances here August 1 were liquor stocks not covered by insurance, it was revealed last week.

Figures [illegible] given by Joseph [illegible] dent of the United Liquor Dealers of Manhattan, who urged wholesale liquor distributors to aid twenty-one bars by supplying them with [illegible] rush whiskey as possible.

Given a list of the twenty-one stricken taverns, Morris O. Alprin, counsel for the wholesale liquor dealers' association, asked members to co-operate in helping the taverns in "a bad situation."

According to Mr. Maguire, the Greater New York Liquor Dealers' Association, Inc., relaxed its voluntary system of rationing to allow the looted bars "five times as much liquor as they would ordinarily get." Baltimore, Md.

A few of the damaged bars were [illegible] presi- opened Thursday and others are expected to be doing business within the next ten days, Maguire said, adding that the High Hat at Seventy Avenue and 140th Street Harlem, with as was so badly damaged that there is serious doubt that "it would ever open again."

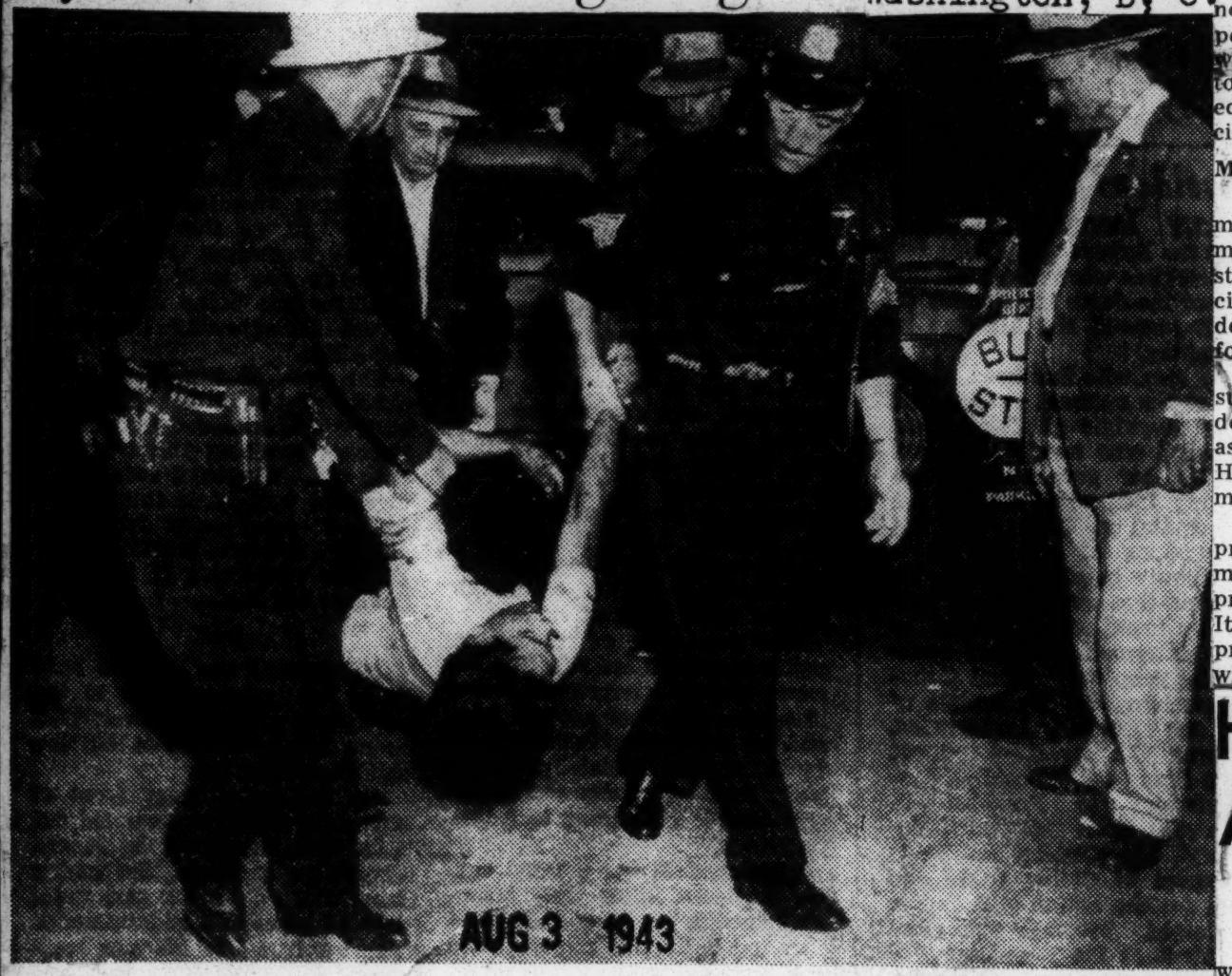
Rationing System Relaxed

61-1943

New York

Injured in Harlem Fighting

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.



Associated Press WIREPHOTO

ON WAY TO HOSPITAL—Police carry an unidentified Negro, injured in Harlem yesterday when bands of Negroes and police battled in the streets, into Sydenham Hospital. Disorders broke out when a Negro soldier was shot by a white patrolman

Harlem Riots Take 6 Lives, Last 16 Hours

AUG 3 1943

By the Associated Press

New York, Aug. 2.—After six Negroes had been killed, 201 persons injured and 359 arrested during 16 hours of disorders in Harlem, the Nation's largest Negro neighborhood, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia expressed belief today that "all's quiet now."

But 6000 policemen still were patrolling Harlem streets and subway stations, all liquor stores in the area were closed on orders of the mayor, and motor traffic was at a virtual standstill. A 10:30 p. m. curfew was fixed for the area, with amusement places ordered to close then.

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In one of his many broadcasts to Harlem residents during the disturbance, Mayor LaGuardia said "this was not a race riot."

Mayor Blames Hoodlums

"There was no conflict between groups of our citizens," said the mayor. "What happened was the thoughtless, criminal acts of hoodlums, reckless, irresponsible people. Shame has come to our city and sorrow to a great number of decent, law-abiding citizens residing in the Harlem district. I saw the recklessness of this mob in action. Strange to say, there was no concerted action. Groups of hoodlums acted on their own initiative."

The disorders began at 7:30 last night when a policeman shot a Negro soldier who tried to interfere with the arrest of a Negro woman in a hotel lobby. The last outbreak was reported at 11:30 a. m. today when 20 policemen rescued a fellow officer and 5 prisoners from a pawn shop where a crowd of 700 Negroes threatened the officer and threw rocks into the shop.

The prisoners, arrested on charges of stealing articles from the shop, harangued the crowd to "go home and get your guns and get us out of here."

AUG 3 1943

Many Stores Looted

Shop windows were broken in many sections of Harlem, and on the south side of 116th Street at least half the stores had smashed panes. Many stores were looted almost completely.

Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine said that 44 policemen were injured in the disorders, and that 99 per cent of the others were Negroes. Hospitals treated 157 Harlem residents.

AUG 3 1943

Because many food stores were closed and milk was scarce in Harlem, Mayor LaGuardia ordered two truckloads of milk sent there, with instructions that "if you can't get it into the stores, sell it to the people in the streets."

A battalion of the New York militia arrived late this morning, headed by Brig. Gen. John J. Mangan, who said he was "just looking around." City officials later announced that a committee of 1500 persons, most of them Negroes, would help patrol Harlem streets tonight. Each man would be equipped with a night stick, officials said.

AUG 3 1943

Military Keeps Hands Off

Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, surveyed the scene with his staff, and said, "This is strictly a civilian job." He said he would not declare the area "out of bounds" for soldiers.

Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio issued a statement expressing bewilderment at the disorders. He said as far back as he could remember Harlem lived in peace and harmony, but

AUG 3 1943

"Now, of late, on the slightest provocation, large numbers are moved to disorder, as if giving expression to some pent-up feeling. It seems to me some insidious propaganda is misleading otherwise would-be peaceful people."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Claim Two Women Started N. Y. Riot

AUG 3 1943

NEW YORK — (SNS) — Margie Polite, one of two women held responsible for starting the rioting and looting in Harlem on August 1, has been found guilty of disorderly conduct in assault against a patrolman, and will be sentenced on Friday.

SEP 1 - 1943

Florine Roberts, the other woman, is still on bail, pending grand jury action on a charge of felonious assault.

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These women, together with Pvt. Robert Bandy, (Mrs. Roberts's son), were accused of assaulting a patrolman attempting to make an arrest in a hotel lobby. In the scuffle, which ensued, Bandy was shot and wounded by the policeman.

Homeless Baby Bandits A Big Harlem Problem

World-Telegram

By HELEN WORDEN,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

AUG 4 1943

Gangsters in diapers. That's what many of the hoodlums are who have terrorized Harlem. Few are over 17. The average age is 13. A large number, according to half a dozen policemen to whom I have talked, are under 10.

"You'll look down a street and see a whole flock of little children, maybe 200," said one policeman today, in describing the type that has looted Harlem's stores in the recent riots.

"You think they are playing. Then you look closer and see they are fighting, beating each other up, just the way they did to that kid on 129th St. a few weeks ago, the one that died with the toy pistol in his hand. The minute they spot a cop they run like quicksilver."

Few Have Homes.

When assured that he wouldn't be named, the policeman said that, like the wild children of post-revolution Russia, few of the kids had homes. Most of them are illegitimate. Some were latch-key children whose mothers tied latch-keys around their necks when they went out to work. But for the most part they don't even know who their parents are. They sleep in hallways, in parks and in vacant lots. They have the cunning of a wild animal and they are old beyond their years.

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"I had a mother stop me on W. 126th St. the other day and beg me to do something about the kids who were bothering her little girl," the policeman continued. "I said, 'Well, you're her mother; you ought to be able to control the situation.' She said she couldn't that her little girl was frightened to death because these kids had threatened to beat her up if she didn't run with them."

New York, N. Y.

These baby bandits sleep all day and roam the streets all night, looting small candy and stationery stores when the opportunity presents itself, smashing windows for the fun of it.

Playing in Saloons.

"You can come up here around 3 or 4 any morning," the policeman said, "and see these kids—some not more than 5 or 6—playing in saloons. They're the ones that graduate into zoot suits as soon as they're big enough to wear long pants."

When the disorder broke out on Sunday night this policeman was stationed on Lenox Ave., near 126th St.

"I'm no prude," he said, "but I never heard language like the kind those bands of kids used. There were a few girls among them. The eldest couldn't have been more than 13. She and the boy with her were drinking beer from a couple of bottles they'd lifted."

Louis Halliday, a Negro clerk, who lives in the Hotel Theresa and works at Liggett's drug storestruck me was their age. Half of at 125th St. and Eighth Ave., toldthem couldn't have been moredone make self-respect much the same story about thethan 6. They'd throw a brick atpeople sick at heart." age of Harlem's hoodlums.

From Store to Store.

"I could see the looting on 125th St. from the window of my hotel," cording to him, was a boy in his he said. "A wa bunchesearly teens.

"It's a problem we colored people have got to work out ourselves," he said. "It's kids like of kids, sometimes as many as 50 in a lot, go from store to store, smashing windows and stealing merchandise. The thing that who've given all of Harlem a

White Abuse Says Soldiers" Caused Riot

Baltimore, Md.
Afro-American

AUG 7 1943

colored citizens over treatment of

NEW YORK. — Resentment of soldiers was given as a main

cause for the recent Harlem outbreak by Walter White, in an advisory letter sent last week to War Secretary Stimson.

The NAACP executive secretary cited the indignities allegedly heaped upon the 369th Coast Artillery, as it returned from Hawaii, and the unpunished 1942 killing of Pvt. Raymond Carr by a civilian policeman.

With such a background, the mere report of the shooting of Pvt. Bandy was sufficient to touch off the explosion which caused damage estimated at $5,000,000, the letter charged.

Another instance of the mistreatment of colored soldiers might precipitate "other trouble," Mr. White warned.

In order to prevent such a recurrence, he suggested that "any and every criminal act, large or small, against a colored soldier, be acted upon immediately without compromise."

Secondly, contending that the state of the nation is due to its segregation policy, Mr. White suggested the War Department authorize [illegible] mixed division of troops.

Bars In Harlem Feel Riot Sting

Atlanta, Georgia
Daily World

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Staggering losses to Harlem restaurants and taverns mounting to $1,000,000 mostly in liquor stocks uncovered by insurance was reported last week by Joseph Maguire, president of the United Liquor Dealers of Manhattan, Inc. Maguire said the loss was sustained during the August 1 flareup.

The Greater New York Liquor Dealers Association, Inc., he stated, has voluntarily relaxed its system of rationing beverages and is now giving the looted bars "five times as much whiskey as they would ordinarily get."

"Our members suffered a terrific loss up there," complained Maguire. "A three-day field survey we conducted showed that some were completely wiped out of liquor and others lost the greater part of their stock. Cases put in cellars were either destroyed or carted away."

Police authorities were reported to be holding large supplies of drink pending devisement of a system to apportion it among the looted taverns. The task of returning the liquor to its rightful owner has been abandoned since no system of earmarking stock has been worked out, it was said.

City Courts Sift Charges In Harlem Riot Arrests

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By Eugene Gordon

Persons arrested in Sunday night's and Monday morning's outbreaks in Harlem began yesterday to appear before Magistrate Thomas Aurelio in Felony Court, 80 Center St., to hear what disposition would be made of the charges brought against them by the police.

A majority of the prisoners had no previous record of arrest or conviction. Many had been arrested for the alleged possession of stolen goods. Others had been charged with disorderly conduct, inciting to riot, rioting, simple assault, assault, burglary, unlawful entry, petty larceny and malicious mischief.

SOME DISMISSED

Assistant District Attorney Edward Rose, prosecuting the cases, indicated that each person would be tried for the offense charged in the affidavit.

Arraignment of the prisoners, or what is technically termed a "short affidavit," began Monday morning. The short affidavit was used because the arresting officers had been unable to find the complainants.

The magistrate on Monday fixed bail and put the cases over until arresting ocers could get in touch with the complainants and draw up the full complaints.

Several persons, because there was no evidence to support the charges, were dismissed by the magistrate. Some were held in bail of from $100 to $2,500. The highest bail was for assault. Most prisoners were young boys.

The courtroom was filled with relatives of the defendants, in many cases mothers or fathers anxious about a youngster who had not been home since early Sunday evening. Wherever Judge Aurelio dismissed a charge, the youngster eagerly joined his parent or parents and happily left the court. Where charges were not dismissed the prisoner was either let out on bail or, in the absence of bail, was returned to his cell, while his relatives sadly left the courtroom by the main door.

FOOD, CLOTHING SEIZED

In cases where they are held for the grand jury, defendant will be assigned for trial in the Court of Special Sessions or in the Court of General Sessions.

It was pointed out by several spectators yesterday that there was no charge of robbery or attempted robbery of a bank in Harlem. The explanation as given by a social worker was that the people took what they most needed—food, clothing, shoes, articles of furniture.

Observers also called attention to the fact that most of the persons who had done the actual stealing had not been arrested, since the stealing had taken place in the early evening, while the arrests had followed several hours later. Most of the prisoners, it appeared, were those who, seeing goods lying in the street or exposed on open shelves of doorless and windowless shops, picked them up and took them home.

A well-known social worker—who asked that her name not be used—said she feared that, as a result of certain newspapers' crying about the "millions of dollars" of property damage, there will be an inclination to "make examples" of the defendants. She pointed out that one may receive from five to ten years in state's prison for receiving stolen property.

STATEMENT BY DAVIS

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., executive secretary of the Upper Halem Section and chairman of the New York County Committee of the Communist Party, yesterday made the following statement with reference to the coming trials:

"It is to be hoped that the city authorities and the courts will continue the progressive and constructive policies which were adopted with success by the Mayor at the beginning of the outbreaks.

"The causes were social and economic and individuals who come up before the courts should not be treated vindictively. Nor should there be wholesale and indiscriminate arrests of Negro citizens in Harlem. For this would tend to rekindle a situation which is rapidly being brought to normal by the Mayor in conjunction with leaders of the Negro community and the forces of organized labor.

"Finally, this is the time for correcting the basic ills which disturb the Negro people, at the bottom of which ills lies the system of jim crow within the city and in the armed forces."

Complaints will probably continue to be filed by arresting officers for another day or so, the number of prisoners numbering above 400. The courts of General Sessions and Special Sessions, as well as the Magistrate's (Felony) Court, are at 80 Centre St., which is the Criminal Courts Building.

How CIO Came To Harlem's Aid

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The New York CIO [illegible] its [illegible] early this [illegible] part in the restoration of order in Harlem.

The CIO, however, did a lot more than just help "restore order." It investigated the circumstances of the disturbances and offered the city concrete suggestions for removing the causes of unrest.

Meanwhile city CIO leaders gave their full energy and time to the emergency in New York's Negro District.

OUTLINED PLANS

A report issued yesterday by CIO Secretary Saul Mills of the Greater New York Industrial Union Council, outlined the organization's steps since Sunday night, revealing that:

"Within two hours after the outbreak of looting and violence late Sunday night, a number of high CIO officials, led by Ferdinand Smith, toured the streets of Harlem urging its residents to remain peaceful and return to their homes."

The report also pointed out that where other speakers proved ineffective before the crowds that had gathered in Harlem, CIO speakers were generally listened to and needed.

On Monday, the day after the disturbances had started," the CIO Council issued a statement calling on all CIO members in the city to give 100 per cent cooperation to Mayor LaGuardia and Police officials in carrying out emergency measures decreed by the Mayor for the restoration of peace and order in Harlem.

CIO locals throughout the city were mobilized and the Harlem-Riverside CIO Community Council sent more than 500 Negro CIO officials, organizers, shop stewards and committeemen to the 20th Precinct police station Monday evening to serve as special citizen wardens. They were placed on street tours for the night by the police.

The CIO, however, did not rest with merely helping to halt the disturbances. A survey was made jointly by the Negro Labor Victory Committee, the Peoples Committee and the Harlem-Riverside CIO Community Council, which indicated that a critical food shortage existed in the Harlem area. Accordingly the Council contacted the Mayor and Markets Commissioner Woolley. It was arranged that the CIO Council would make preparation to open a number of food distribution centers in the Harlem area on Wednesday, if the food situation had not abated.

The Council prepared to establish four such CIO food distribution centers for the people of Harlem.

Fortunately this step was not necessary. An early morning check-up on Wednesday revealed that many additional food stores had reopened and that the food shortage had been greatly alleviated.

The CIO Council, hearing a complaint that price ceilings were being outrageously violated in reopened

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

GETS 60 DAYS IN RIOT

Man Sentenced for Carrying a Long Knife in Harlem

The first workhouse term resulting from the Harlem rioting was imposed yesterday in Special Sessions. Herman Banks, 40 years old, a Negro, who said his home was at Convent Avenue and 142d Street, was sentenced to a sixty-day term on his conviction of possessing a dangerous weapon—a long knife—in the rioting. It also was the first conviction in the rioting on a Sullivan law charge.

There had been convictions on disorderly conduct and other minor charges. Others of the offenders had been held for the action of the grand jury on burglary or unlawful entry charges and still others had been acquitted, including several soldiers who were turned over to the Army for disciplinary action.

weekends to all soldiers in the area, the army reported yesterday.

The army posted 300 military policemen in the heavily populated Negro district to enforce instructions to question every soldier found there. Soldiers wishing to see their families will be escorted to their homes and all others will be ordered to

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Ill.

'OUT OF BOUNDS' SOLDIERS IN HARLEM IS NOW

New York, Aug. 8.—A large sec... tion of Harlem, where six Negroes lost their lives in rioting last Sunday from Saturday afternoons to Monday mornings, until further notice.

61-1943

New York

The Female Influence Is Felt:

National Council of Negro Women Comes to Aid of Pvt. Bandy's Mother

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

By NELL DODSON

A new and entirely unexpected development in the aftermath of the August 1 rioting in Harlem case last Wednesday when the metropolitan chapter of the National Council of Negro Women swung into action, and represented by a woman attorney, secured the release on reduced bail of Mrs. Florine Roberts, mother of Pvt. Robert Bandy, the soldier who was the center of the altercation that set off the riot spark.

Up until Wednesday, the part the soldier's mother played in the affair had been vague, partially because of garbled press reports of the incident which took place in the lobby of the now-closed Hotel Braddock and started the all-night rampage of looting and vandalism which brought $5,000,000 worth of damage to the community.

BAIL EXCESSIVE

The prominent woman's group stepped into the picture after it became known Mrs. Roberts was being held under the excessive $10,000 bail for allegedly "acting in concert" with her son when he interfered with Patrolman James Collins' arrest on a disorderly conduct charge of Margie Polite, 35.

According to Vivian Mason, president of the metropolitan chapter, the National Council decided to take action at a special board meeting on Wednesday. Ruth Whitehead Whaley was secured to represent Mrs. Roberts as legal counsel. A few hours after diminutive, fiery Attorney Whaley took over the case, Mrs. Roberts had been released on $1,000 bail and was ready to go back to her job in Middletown, Conn., where she's been employed for the past two-and-one-half years by a wealthy family.

SOME FACTS COME OUT

I talked to Mrs. Roberts Thursday, just before she returned to Connecticut. She's an attractive, soft-spoken woman who looks younger than her forty years. She must also be efficient and well-liked on her job, because her employers, personally concerned over her welfare, sent a representative to New York as soon as they learned of her detention, but he arrived after Mrs. Roberts' release.

In none of the newspaper stories was it made clear how and why Pvt. Bandy and his mother happened to be in the lobby of the hotel at the time of altercation.

Mrs. Roberts, accompanied by two of her son's friends from New Haven, Conn., had come to New York for the weekend to visit Robert who was stationed in Jersey City with the 730 Military Police Battalion. The two girls stayed in lower Harlem with friends. Mrs. Roberts was unable to secure accommodations at the crowded Hotel Theresa, but was referred to the Braddock.

Sunday evening, she and the two girls, accompanied by Robert, were returning to the hotel to pick up her bags prior to returning home to Connecticut, when the trouble started.

There are two widely-contrasting versions of what took place in the lobby. Mrs. Roberts' full story will be told in due time and in the proper place, but the following facts are included:

- Mrs. Roberts states that at no time did her son strike Officer Collins;
- that in spite of the fact she is supposed to have assaulted Patrolman Collins, she bore at the time I talked to her a contusion under her right eye and a swollen right hand;
- Robert Bandy was shot when his back was turned;
- according to Attorney Whaley, application for reduced bail for Mrs. Roberts was "strenuously opposed."
- neither Pvt. Bandy nor his mother knew Margie Polite; the latter was a complete stranger to them;
- Pvt. Bandy was not forced to, nor had any obligation to interfere in the altercation between the Polite woman and Patrolman Collins.

IS A WIDOW

Mrs. Roberts is a widow; Robert her only child.

I've tried all my life to keep out of trouble, and to take care of myself," she said. "I've worked hard and saved a few pennies. It just didn't occur to me that anyone would be interested in my case."

In Ruth Whitehead Whaley, she has one of the ablest women attorneys in New York; in the National Council of Negro Women, she has the backing and support of some of the most prominent women in the Harlem community, many of whom are mothers themselves.

The case of Florine Roberts has started a rallying cry among the women of Harlem. On Wednesday morning, August 11, at 10:00 a.m., at Freedom House, 32 E. 51 st, the National Council of Negro Women has called a meeting of every major organized woman's group, Negro and white, in New York City, to outline a program for future action on the kind of social and economic problems responsible for the rioting in which Florine Roberts became innocently involved.

"It's time for women to take some action," Vivian Mason said. "The men have had their chance and it seems they haven't done too much with it. We have our homes and our families to protect and we're going to do it!"

Outbreak Says the Harlem Excuse Was 'Useless and Futile'

Call
Kansas City, Mo.
AUG 13 1943

BY WILLIAM PICKENS

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — As I write I am in New York City. The riot started by Negroes, has ended. The Negroes did all rioting, practically unopposed, except in a few instances where police interfered.

It was not a race riot, white people were not attacked. It was just a rogues' riot. Stores shops were broken into and goods of all kind were taken and carried out. It was a looter's holiday. Groceries, meats, vegetables, shoes, clothes, fur coats, everything from the drug stores except the bad medicines.

In the part of the town where I watched the riot, the police, evidently at the suggestion of the mayor, were firing blank cartridges of firing into the air.

Burden On Negroes

The mayor perhaps intended to leave the burden on the Negroes this time and not to help their leaders to shout and publish all over the nation that the police killed the Negroes—even though those Negroes were doing the things for which people are supposed to be killed in all riots—the "occasion" which set off this making a wholesale attack on everybody's property, with the greatple were the Negro and thieving. These peoerybody's property, with the greatple were the hoodlums of the New threat of fire and death violence. York Negro people. They had And what was the cause of allthievery in their bones, perhaps of this? Of course, Mr. Sociolo- from Cain.

The Negroes gist will want to direct us way But in a magathered around and the M. P., from New Jersey, came in to show his authority, as if he did not know that a military policeman in New York City, so long as it is not under military rule, has no authority over the city police.

The Negroes and the military police-A Negro soldier coming in shot through the shoul- city policeman (incidenthe white race) in a din- lobby on 126th street, avenue.

On this Sunday he stopped a green Negro soldier coming in *five millions of dollars with a prostitute of another race* property and to set us all because the policeman knew what was in store for the soldier.

Lies Upon Lies

A fight was started, the Negro had taken from the po- knocking down the policeman, who and was running away then shot at his assailant, who knew he was in the wrong, was Uncle Sam's soldierstrying to run away. Well, what ruined by the many rot-would you have done? I know what whom they contact in I would have done. But Negro hotels, and this policeman mobs are no beter than white placed in the lobby of mobs.

Hoodlums Of New York

This hotel many weeks ago to help They began to lie, all that sixth boys column stuff—a poor Negro sol-

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...er had been "killed" by a police-
man (the Negro only having been
wounded in the shoulder), because
the poor boy was simply trying to
protect his own mother, etc., etc.,
the usual lies that are told when
mobs want to justify their savage-
ry. AUG 13 1943

The white policeman, hurt by this Negro M. P., was taken to the same hospital with the Negro, but after a mob of 3,000 or more gathered around that hospital, the Negro was removed to another hospital under arrest, as ought to have been. AUG 13 1943

This was not a race riot, but it had a race element in it, for those mob hoodlums passed by some Negro shops, especially if they were labeled "Colored Man's Store" or if they bore the Father Divine label of "PEACE."

Negro mob action looks no better to me than white mob action, whichever way you turn it, and I have been fighting mob action for the last 40 years, and will continue to fight it. Negro soldiers are not always being treated right in this country, but even the Negro soldier is not always blameless.

Recalls 1935 Riot

They used to tell us that it was all "economic." That is what they said when, eight years ago, a similar rioting in Harlem by Negroes and white sympathizers with Negroes, took place. The occasion at that time was that a Negro child had been caught stealing from a 10-cent store counter and had been perhaps untactfully handled by the store policeman and taken out but had not been hurt.

News spread that the child had been killed, just as it was said Sunday night that the Negro M. P. had been killed. Then (1935) the Negro leaders told us that it was all due to the "depression," that "no work" and "unfair relief treatment" of colored people was the cause.

That bunk will not explain last night's rumpus. There is no depression. There is plenty of work for all who want to work, and no "relief" business at all.

We must, as Americans, talk plain when either white people or black people are at the wrong end. The mayor did not want it said that the police department of New York had discriminated against Negroes and therefore they were for the first night allowed to run away almost unmolested, by the many thousands. It was a rascal's paradise. AUG 13 1943

Children Aid Looters

Monday morning on Seventh ...venue at 138th street, I passed a delicatessen and a Negro crowd was emptying it of its good, at 11 o'clock. They had put small children inside to hand out the stuff through the broken window glass. The police strolled by in their bullet-proof metal hats and did not even look at it. Later, when I returned that way, the crowd had been dispersed and five policemen were standing guard. AUG 13 1943

I hear six people have been killed—all Negroes, of course; but not because they were Negroes, but because they were looters, and only Negroes were looting. When things happen against colored people or colored soldiers, it is not safe to make an automatic outcry about injustice and oppression. It is best to find out what is back of it. Sometimes there is a Negro back of it.

So, Herr Hitler, this New York foolishness is another score for you, without cost to you. It did more to New York than many of your bombs might have done. But you are going to lose this war, if you expect the American Negro to help you win it. He has some bad people in his country, but he does not want any worse people here.

Call
Kansas City, Mo.

How Detroit Riot Differed From Harlem Outbreak

AUG 13 1943

The riot in Harlem was different from the Detroit riot in several respects. In Detroit, white hoodlum gangs and Negro hoodlum gangs fought each other. In Harlem there were no white gangs at work. Negro gangs rioted among themselves, destroying property and injuring their fellow Negro citizens. AUG 13 1943

In Detroit, Mayor Jeffries was ineffective in his handling of the mobs. The situation got out of control and martial law had to be declared. Detroit police seemed to be working in cooperation with the rioters. A majority of these killed were killed by police.

In Harlem, Mayor LaGuardia acted immediately in an effective manner to halt the rioting. He was successful in restoring order in one day while the Detroit affair extended through four days. New York police were equal to the occasion and were not abusive. AUG 13 1943



MAYOR LaGUARDIA



MAX YERGAN



WALTER WHITE



FERDINAND SMITH

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

AUG 2 1943

As Leaders Toured Harlem

AUG 3 1943

By Harry Raymond

I toured all over troubled Harlem yesterday in a Municipal Radio Station Sound truck and found that the overwhelming majority of Negro citizens back Mayor La Guardia 100 per cent in his appeal for order. AUG 3 1943

Judge Hubert T. Delaney, Negro Justice of the Domestic Relations Court, leader of a group of some 50 speakers, who appealed all day to Harlem people to avoid provocations, was on our truck.

"We prevail on you not to listen to rumors," blared the voice from our loud speaker. "We are not going to surrender our rights. We are going to fight for them in an orderly and organized way..."

FIGHTING AXIS

At 145th St. and 5th Ave. more than 1,000 persons—all Negroes—gathered around the truck.

When it was announced that the Mayor was forming a committee of 1,500 Negroes from the trade unions, civic organizations and churches to patrol the streets with policemen and maintain order the crowd cheered. AUG 3 1943

Smashed store windows, result of disorders of the night before, stared at the radio truck. But the people who gathered on the streets—that is, the people who really represent Harlem—repudiated the violent demonstrations.

Judge Delaney told the people that Negroes did have many grievances. He pleaded with them to abide by the Mayor's 10:30 curfew and orders against lawlessness.

"Violence will gain you nothing," he argued. "Let's get together in this war against the Axis."

There were five WNYC loud speaker trucks on Harlem streets all day and night. They toured up and down Fifth, Eighth and Seventh Avenues with the speakers appealing for order. Daily Worker New York

The sound trucks were greeted suspiciously when they arrived to launch broadcasts at streets intersections. The crowds listened carefully, attentively. When one speaker shouted, "We want equal rights in the Army" the crowd cheered. But the speaker warned against rioting to gain these rights. AUG 3 1943

Mayor LaGuardia's name was repeatedly cheered by the Negro people during the tour of the area. Harlem was badly wrecked, but the spirit of the people was not that of hoodlums, as it has been described by considerable of the local press.

It was the spirit of a sturdy democratic people who gave their sons to the war and who are today, though jim-crowed and discriminated against, giving their all to allied victory. AUG 3 1943

Post-War Planning for Discrimination

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York City is planning to build a large housing project, Stuyvesant Town, from which Negroes are to be excluded. The insurance company is prepared to invest $15,000,000 in the project; the New York Board of Estimate, voting 11 to 5, said go ahead. The matter would appear to end there. New Republic JUN 21 1943

But it does not end there. It is a question of national—even of international—importance, because the housing project will be built after the war, and must therefore be regarded as a part of our plans for the post-war world. In effect, Mayor LaGuardia, who endorsed the project, and the New York Board of Estimate, which voted for it, have gone on record as approving racial discrimination. New York, N. Y.

Fortunately, a technical hitch developed. The City Charter requires that in actions involving the grant of rights to private corporations for the use of city-street properties, a three-fourths majority vote is necessary for validation. The Board of Estimate's vote was one short of the required number. Accordingly, the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League is seeking a court order to halt the project on the ground that failure to obtain the required majority has made the housing contract invalid. We hope the project will be quashed—not only because it sets a dangerous precedent and wastes a lot of money on a middle-class development when the lower-income groups are in greater need of housing facilities, but because of the reflection on a great city. JUN 21 1943

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New York

ROGERS SAYS:

New York Riot Was Born Out of Desperation; Need Preventive Action Now

AUG 14 1943

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BY J. A. ROGERS

NEW YORK is supposed to be the most advanced, most enlightened city in America, if not in the world, but in the handling of its social problems it shows hardly more intelligence than some God-forsaken town in Mississippi. New York City has permitted the same bad thing to happen twice in spite of repeated warnings. For weeks Adam Powell had been telling Mayor La Guardia and the City Council that there would be an outbreak and what he said was extensively published in the white press. The mayor said it wouldn't happen and made appeals to the city, apparently thinking that pep talks and the police could cure an evil that, after 300 years, has worked its way deep into American psychology.



Mr. Rogers

The 1935 outbreak cost the city $400,000. This one is estimated at $5,000,000. With the business that has been lost until the stores are restored, the whole will total $10,0000,000 or more. For two square miles the business district has been so gutted that it looks like a ghost town.

LAST RIOT PROBE WAS BURIED

When the last outbreak occurred there was the usual cussing and discussing by leaders, Negro and white, and much, much in the press about reform. An inquiry that lasted several weeks followed, the findings of which were buried. I attended most of the meetings and as I saw what was going on I said to myself: "These people don't mean business. They are only shadow-boxing. They're not going to do anything about it until the next riot, when we're going to have the same talk, talk again."

I SUGGESTED in the press at the time that the Mayor and City Council should, first of all, equalize rents, cutting down that paid by Negroes to the level of that paid by white people; second, that the white merchants who controlled 95 per cent of Harlem business be made to stop over-charging Negroes. One good thing happened out of the riot: more Negroes got jobs in Harlem stores; but this, of course, only benefited a small number.

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR HOODLUMS?

But the high rents continued. Today certain American citizens in Harlem because of their color, have to pay a tax of from $10 to $30 a month to white people for a place to live. I can say for myself that the payment of this color tax makes me mad every time I have to fork it out, and I feel that the sole thing that kept me out of that outbreak Sunday night was because my education and training have made a coward of me. "The cowardice of culture." And there are thousands of educated Negroes who feel as I do over rent-gouging.

I HAVE no intention whatever of endorsing rioters. Truth to tell, I am afraid of that type of Negro and always avoid passing through streets on which they congregate. In short, they are a menace to white and Negro alike. But calling them hoodlums does not solve the problem. The issue is: **Whose fault is it that they are "hoodlums"?** Look at the faces of the hundreds of those arrested Sunday night and you'll see that without exception they belong to the underprivileged, uneducated class, the people who never had a chance. The simple truth is that this type of Negro has no other way on God's earth of getting justice—revenge, if you will, than by exploding from time to time because they are being robbed and doggeda around within the law, which law includes the unwritten law of jimcrow.

OUTBREAK HAS SOME UNDERLYING CAUSE

It was a bit of high irony when the mayor got together certain Negro leaders to speak to the mob. The fact is that few, if any of these submissive Negroes have ever heard of Walter White or Max Yergan, or the Rev. John Johnson, and when they see these well-fed, well-dressed, cultured Negroes, who are miles above them, among white people, cautioning them to be good, the contempt of these roustabouts for such other Negroes is great. They regard them as enemies, especially as some of them appeared Sunday with white policemen, whom the underprivileged have especial cause to hate.

WITH ALL due respect to that Mountain of Wisdom, that Oracle on Everything, Herr Westbrook Pegler, who blames riots on the Negro press, these roustabouts do not read Negro newspapers as many of them are illiterate, coming up as they do from the deep South where they have been denied education for years. One does not have to be able to read to feel injustice. Even a dumb animal does. Any time people over a two-square mile area break out spontaneously as they did Sunday night you must know there's some deep underlying causes, for which, of course Herr Pegler has the 100 per cent correct answer ready.

GOADED TO DESPERATION

This I know: If the situation were reversed; if it were Negroes who were ill-treating whites, they would do just as the Negroes did. This country was founded on bloody revolt. Many of the Negroes who took part in Sunday night's affair were hard-working people goaded to desperation.

THE SHOOTING by a white policeman, of a Negro soldier, by a white policeman, was the last straw. Negroes have been getting letters from Army camps telling how their relatives are being dogged around there. Soldiers on furlough confirm these tales. Bandy, himself, might have been one of the aggrieved men, and when he saw a white man, incidentally only a policeman to him, roughing-up a Negro woman, he flared up even without thinking.

MAYOR'S WISE ORDER PREVENTED KILLINGS

This treatment of the Negro soldier cuts deep into the heart of Negro America, what with all this talk of freedom and democracy. We were told that a jim-crow Army was necessary to preserve racial peace, which in itself was a rank admission that there was no discipline in the Army. But could there have been shooting, and killing, and discord in the armed forces if there had been a single Army for all citizens?

THE ONLY thing that prevented Harlem streets from running red was the mayor's order to the police not to shoot—an order that galled many a Southerner on the force. Had the police started shooting as they did in Detroit, the mob would have gone indoors for its knives and guns. At least, it was openly said that they were prepared after the Detroit killings.

MUST DEMAND ACTION

Beaumont! Mobile! Los Angeles! Detroit! New York! What city will be next? There'll surely be others because those in power seem determined that those things that cause racial outbreaks must go on. But the minority of thinking people in this nation, who see that this is helping Fascism with one hand while fighting it with the other, must demand thorough-going action to prevent other outbreaks.

HARLEM IS ORDERLY WITH HEAVY GUARD READY FOR TROUBLE

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Rioting of Sunday Night Tapers Off—8,000 State Troops Are Held in Their Armories

PARTIAL CURFEW ORDERED

Liquor Sales Barred, Dimout Is Lifted—Police and Army Investigate Sabotage Tip

Eight thousand members of the New York (State) Guard were ordered to "stand by" in metropolitan armories last night, and 1,500 civilian volunteers, mostly Negroes, were recruited by the city authorities and equipped with nightsticks and armbands to help 6,000 city police, military police, City Patrol units and air raid wardens prevent a recurrence of Sunday night's rioting in Harlem.

In addition, a 10:30 P. M. partial curfew was imposed on West Harlem, the wartime dimout was lifted so the district could be brightly illuminated, all liquor stores and bars were closed and traffic was halted except for guarded food trucks and trolley cars.

With quiet restored last night and with Harlem heavily guarded, Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia announced in his fourth broadcast of the day, at 9:55 P. M., that "the situation at this moment is definitely under control."

When yesterday's dawn brought an end to the worst part of the violent disturbances in Harlem's history, six persons had been killed, more than 500 wounded or injured, and hundreds of stores and shops had been wrecked and looted by gangs of hoodlums and thieves. Property damage was estimated as high as $5,000,000.

AUG 3 1943

500 Persons Arrested

Sporadic pillaging continued all day, but the area was comparatively quiet late yesterday afternoon. By that time 500 persons had been arrested, all Negroes, and 100 of them women, on charges of rioting, looting and assault.

AUG 3 1943

The dead were all Negroes, as were all the injured except about forty policemen, including two captains. The affair was not a race riot, as virtually the only white persons involved were among the police who attempted to maintain law and order and the storekeepers whose property was stolen.

Starting from a minor incident when a white policeman shot and slightly wounded an off-duty Negro soldier whom he charged with interfering in the arrest of a Negro woman in the lobby of a hotel on West 126th Street, the trouble was stirred up by false rumors that circulated rapidly and extensively, to the effect that the soldier had been killed in the presence of his mother.

AUG 3 1943

Gangs of young hoodlums formed in the streets, first threatening to rush the hospital where the wounded soldier had been taken, then throwing bottles and stones, and finally running wild in an orgy of smashing windows, robbing and setting fire to stores, overturning and burning automobiles, attacking policemen, street fighting, stabbings and shootings.

Most Rioters Youthful

Many of the rioters were in their late 'teens or early twenties, and some wore zoot suits. They appeared to be organized in gangs ranging in size up to forty or fifty persons, some of which included young girls and children. In some cases the girls and children followed the gangs and ran away with loot the older boys and men had thrown into the street.

Prompt and courageous action by Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia and the police, plus the calm maintained by the white population and most of the Negroes of New York, kept the trouble from developing into a race riot as did the recent disorders in Detroit.

Both riots had similar powder-keg backgrounds in the rapid growth and overcrowding of Negro districts in recent years, charges of discrimination in the Army, Navy and war industry, demands for economic and social equality, and the rise of Negro and radical agitators preying on these conditions. Both were marked by the spread of false rumors magnifying relatively minor incidents that served as the sparks for the tinderbox.

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There the similarity ended, however. Whereas gangs of white hoodlums organized in Detroit to hunt down individual Negroes who ventured out of the Negro district, thus emulating Negro gangs in Negro districts, nothing like this occurred in New York.

No Need for Martial Law

Negroes from Harlem and other Negro districts traveled to and from their work in other parts of teh city yesterday, and carried on their duties without molestation. In midtown Manhattan, Negroes went about their work as usual, although the Army sent in military police headquarters at the West 123d Street Station, on the fringe of the troubletrol and that there was no occasion for a declaration of martial law or for asking the military to intervene. Only through an application for a writ of habeas corpus by their attorneys will they be severely dealt with. He also warned residents of the city to stay out of Harlem for the time being.

Staying on the job virtually all night Sunday and all day yesterday, Mayor La Guardia, who made several trips to Washington during the disorders as a "shame" and a disgrace, toured the district, conferred with police officials and Negro leaders, and on the frequent conferences with police officials and Army officials and Negro leaders in his absence. Although the Army sent in military police and all soldiers from the district, the Mayor made several broadcasts in which he called upon the citizens of New York, made four trips to the City Hall area, and canceling his radio broadcasts on the time being.

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cation by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, on the ground that the local authorities had lost control of the situation, could the Army intervene.

Governor Dewey, who was at the Roosevelt Hotel last night, kept in close touch with the situation in Harlem, but had not received any request from the Mayor to call on President Roosevelt for the Army to mobilize the New York (State) Guard.

However, it was learned that at the Governor's direction Maj. Gen. William Ottman, commander of the Guard, had ordered 8,000 members of the Guard to report immediately for drills in the various armories of the metropolitan area, where they can be readily available for riot duty if needed. They are all from this area, including 1,500 who are now in training at Camp Smith, Peekskill, N. Y., but will arrive here today. All 8,000, including a Negro regiment with headquarters at the Fifteenth Regiment Armory at 143d Street and Fifth Avenue, will be held in the armories "until further notice." They can move into action from the armories within thirty minutes.

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6,000 Police Sent Into Area

The Mayor and Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine mobilized 6,000 policemen (about one-third of the city's force) for Harlem duty by canceling all leaves and days off and calling in foot and mounted patrolmen, motorcycle officers, radio cars and detectives from all the five boroughs. Police poured into the district all day by subway, truck, emergency car and patrol wagon. Maj. Gen. Robert M. Danford, commandant of the City Patrol Corps, also sent extra men to the district. Regular and special police wore air raid helmets to protect them from missiles.

At an afternoon conference with military authorities the Mayor assured Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, and Col. John McNulty, provost marshal in charge of the military police, that the disorders were "all cleaned up."

"I wish I were an optimist," replied General Terry, who added that no soldiers would be allowed in Harlem tonight if they did not have business there. The area, however, has not been officially declared "out of bounds" by the Army.

"We hope we don't have to send any more military police here," said General Terry. "We just don't want any soldiers in this district who have no legitimate business here. If they are on furlough and live here, that is all right. The military police will continue to remain here, but only as a protection for soldiers and not for other duties."

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As he left the conference the Mayor declared:

"I will not stand for any stealing or looting."

He added that large police forces would be kept in the district all night, that no loitering or gathering of large crowds would be permitted at any time and that all places of amusement would be closed at 10:30 P. M. under his modified curfew order. All other orders issued earlier in the day, he said, would be kept in effect. He said people would not be forced off the streets if they did not congregate in groups.

The conference was attended by Justice Jane Bolin, a Negro, of the Domestic Relations Court; Magistrate James S. Watson, a Negro, of the Municipal Term Court; Major Samuel J. Battle, a Negro, of the City Patrol Corps, who was formerly a police lieutenant and is now a member of the City Parole Commission; Police Commissioner Valentine and First Deputy Commissioner Louis F. Costuma.

Mayor La Guardia announced that plans had been made at the conference for representative Harlem citizens to appeal to their fellow-residents of the district to help the authorities maintain law and order. Many such persons toured the district yesterday and last night. The conference also made plans, he said, for Major Battle and Magistrate Watson to organize the civilian volunteer group to help the police "repeal violence" last night. Firemen who guarded stores and otherwise helped the police in the district yesterday would be replaced by other firemen for night duty, he said.

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Milk Sent Into District

The Mayor also disclosed that Daniel P. Woolley, Markets Commissioner, had sent three large trucks of milk to Harlem to relieve the shortage caused by the rioting. Dealers whose drivers had been attacked and retailers whose stores had been wrecked had suspended operations earlier in the day, not only in milk but in other food supplies, causing an emergency that the Mayor said he would do everything possible to overcome. He said it might be several days, however, before the food shops dared reopen.

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Most Harlem food stores have closed either because their proprietors have no salable merchandise left after the looting or because they fear further violence. Wholesalers, packers and distributors are ready to rush large supplies to Harlem today if conditions there are quiet and retailers are ready to reopen. The Office of Price Administration arranged to have six investigators on hand to make sure that price ceilings are observed. Last week a survey of Harlem meat prices caused charges of ceiling violations to be lodged against twenty-five butchers.

Commissioner Valentine announced the plans for lifting the dimout with the Army's approval. He said the area between Fifth and St. Nicholas Avenues and between 110th and 165th Streets was included, and the dimout would remain lifted there until further notice. The dimout will continue in the rest of the city, but there will be no air raid drills for the present.

Liquor Sale Prohibited

The sale of all liquor, beer or wine was prohibited in Harlem until further notice, in an order issued by John F. O'Connell, chairman of the State Liquor Authority who also announced that the delivery of such products to licensed retail places had been prohibited.

While the official conferences were going on yesterday afternoon, reporters who visited parts of the trouble area found the atmosphere subdued but tense. Sullen-looking Negroes were gathered here and there in small groups, muttering to themselves, but were kept moving by the police. In some spots the streets were crowded with Negroes as on normal days, but these were few. The police were everywhere.

The main shopping thoroughfares, like part of West 125th Street and parts of Seventh and Eighth Avenues, looked as if they had been swept by a hurricane or an invading army. Windows of many of the stores in the area had been smashed, stores were filled with wrecked fixtures, the sidewalks were covered with broken glass, and the gutters were piled with foodstuffs, canned goods, clothing, household furnishings and other articles that the looters had been unable to carry off. Policemen were taking goods to the police stations, and workers were boarding up broken windows.

All sorts of stores had been looted—but particularly pawnshops and jewelry stores, groceries, delicatessens, butcher shops and food stores of all kinds, and, of course, saloons and liquor stores.

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Loss Put at $5,000,000

Matthew J. Eder, executive secretary of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, who made a survey of the district during the afternoon, estimated the property damage at $5,000,000, including $1,500,000 for plate glass and window breaking alone. He said many of the storekeepers, especially those in retail liquor and haberdashery, apparently had lost everything, including stock that could not be replaced.

On 125th Street, from St. Nicholas to Fifth Avenue, Mr. Eder counted 400 broken store windows. He said there were forty liquor stores in Harlem and that thirty had been broken into and cleaned off their stock.

Of the seventeen pawnshops in Harlem eight reported to Mr. Eder that their loss was between $15,000 and $25,000. He said the damage was five times greater than that done in the Harlem riot of 1935.

Mr. Eder stressed that the rioting was done mainly by "zoot-suiters from 16 to 22 years old." He said he was astonished to learn that a great number of young girls took part in the looting.

One pawnshop in Lenox Avenue reported to the Chamber during the afternoon that it had checked a loss of "more than $20,000," and was still checking. A haberdasher's in West 125th Street reported a "complete clean-out." Another pawnshop that was wrecked had been taken over only recently by a son who had to obtain a temporary furlongh from the Army to see to its affairs when his father, the owner, committed suicide, according to friends.

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Negro Stores Share in Losses

The worst damage was done on the main arterial streets, West 125th, West 135th and West 145th Streets, Fifth, Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Avenues, according to the Chamber. The vast majority of stores in these neighborhoods are small individual businesses owned by white persons. The percentage operated by Negroes is reported to be small, but spokesmen for Negro organizations stressed yesterday that the Negro stores had suffered with the others.

More detailed information on the property damage is expected when insurance adjusters are able to visit the zone. As soon as they can do their work, the offices of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters will compute the damage.

It was learned that the largest single claim was likely to be that of the Jack Sobel Pawn Shop, 145th Street and Eighth Avenue, which was looted, wrecked and set on fire. The place was insured for $105,000, with riot coverage included, according to an authoritative source.

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The incident that served as the immediate cause of the riot took place at 7:30 P. M. Sunday in the lobby of the Hotel Braddock, 272 West 126th Street, near Eighth Avenue, which had been declared a "raided premises" some tiem ago at the request of the Army, with a policeman assigned there at all times. Six policemen have now been posted there until further notice.

Sunday night Patrolman James Collins attempted to arrest a woman in the lobby on a charge of disorderly conduct, when, he charged, Private Robert Bandy, 26 years old, of the 730th Military Police Battalion, stationed in Jersey City and off duty, interfered. According to the poliman, Private Bandy seized his nightstick, knocked his down and ran. Then Collins fired one shot, hitting the soldier in the left shoulder. Both were taken to Sydenham Hospital, where the policeman was treated for cuts on the head.

Private Bandy, who was put under arrest and transferred to the prison ward in Bellevue Hospital, was described by his officers as a "good soldier." He was drafted and inducted into the Army in January, 1942. Born in Alabama, his official Army address is in care of his mother in New Haven, Conn.

The first crowds began to gather outside the hotel and the Sydenham Hospital, but as the false rumors flew about Harlem, the gangs of hoodlums started roaming the district and engaging in their acts of violence.

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Hospital figures on cases treated up to last night were:

Sydenham Hospital — 105 persons treated, six of them white; six admitted; 13 transferred.

Harlem Hospital — 435 treated, 35 admitted, 10 in serious condition.

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Knickerbocker Hospital — 21 treated, including 14 white persons, of whom two were admitted.

Bellevue Hospital—3 admitted.

Mt. Sinai Hospital—2 treated.

Many of the injured had been cut by flying glass, bottles and other missles, and could be sent home after treatment.

Police Commissioner Valentine said last night the detectives of the sabotage squad were investigating reports they received before the riot that organized gangs of hoodlums from certain Southern cities had been sent here to cause trouble nad had been filtering into Harlem for some time. As yet, he asserted, they have not been able to confirm the reports.

Army intelligence officers are understood to be cooperating closely with the police. A number of them were in Harlem last night under the command of Maj. William A. Sullivan, a former New York captain of detectives and a veteran of the first World War, who returned to the Army at the beginning of this war.

Harlem Rioting Under Control

Advertiser

5 Dead, 543 Hurt, Losses Pass 5 Million

Montgomery, Ala.

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Order appeared restored in Harlem tonight after another outbreak of rioting that resulted in the deaths of five negroes, injuries to 543 persons, 500 arrests and property damage estimated at $5,000,000.

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Within minutes after a curfew was clamped down at 10:30 p.m. the repair work being done on the sidewalks were clear of virtually all persons except police and volunteers patrolling the debris-strewn streets.

At an hour when ordinarily the taverns are busy, the streets ed, the residents of the nation's largest negro neighborhood appeared. The area's population about 300,000.

The only activity other than that of the patrolling police was

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As the situation became more relaxed, police disclosed that previously listed as had been found listed among the identified dead.

A force of 6,000 police was on duty in the area to keep the peace.

6101943

North Carolina

Several Hurt In Durham Race Riot

DURHAM, N. C.—(ANP)According to Chief H. E. King, no arrest were expected in connection with the street brawl which occurred here Saturday when at least two policemen, a city bus driver, and several Negro soldiers and civilians were injured.

Last More Than Hour

The rioting lasted for more than an hour in a Negro section of the city and was brought under control by local officers with the help of a detachment of Camp Butner military police.

The trouble is said to have started when a Negro soldier became rowdy in a store and drew a knife on an alcoholic control officer who questioned his right to several liquor books. Bailey blackjacked the soldier and then called for assistance from the crowd surrounding him.

A patrol car ordered to the scene was rushed. The tires were slashed and the radio aerial and windows smashed; the patrolman was disarmed while a fellow officer was struck on the head with a rock during the disturbance which followed. The bus driver was injured when a rock was thrown through the window of his passing bus.

The Durham company of the state guard stood in readiness to move in but was not needed.

Camp Butner authorities said an investigation was under way to determine what part Negro soldiers played in the riot.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Found Guilty In Soldier, Police Riot

MAY 22 1943

Fined $100 And Given Suspended Jail Sentence

MAY 22 1943

DURHAM, N. C.—Judge A. H. Borland in Recorder's Court here Wednesday May 12 found Thomas C. Allen guilty of inciting and participating in an unlawful assembly and riot, as a result of the disturbance which occured between a crowd of soldiers and city policemen on Fayetteville street, in that section of the city known as Haiti, April 10. The defendant was fined $100 and costs and given a suspended six months sentence under 5 years probation.

Evidence adduced at the trial showed that the trouble started when ABC officer, T. L. Bailey, who had been stationed in the ABC store on Fayetteville street blackjacked a soldier and chased to a house at the corner of Elm and Fayetteville streets, which other infuriated soldiers took up the chase and threatened to get the officer.

The crowd was estimated at between six and seven hundred persons, mostly soldiers.

FOUR DAY TRIAL

The trial, which had been continued for a number of times at the request of the state, consumed four days and resulted in one of the hardest fought legal battles in the history of the Recorder's Court, with C. J. Gates and M. Hugh Thompson representing the defendant, and S. C. Brawley Jr., prosecuting.

MAY 22 1943

OFFICER JONES TESTIFIES

Officer W. L. Jones was the first witness to take the stand. He testifed in substance as to having been called to the aid of Bailey, asserting that upon reaching the scene he found the defendant standing on the bannisters waving both hands in the air, and excitedly repeating the words: "Come and get him, come and get him."

The defense ridiculed this testimony, pointing out that the bannisters were constructed of a 2x4 inch railing, thus making it quite impossible for a man the size of the defendant to be standing upon them in such an acrobatic position, waving both hands and hollering.

The next officer to take the stand, in his testimony, claimed that the defendant, instead of waving both hands, was holding on to a bannister post with one hand, and waving with the other.

DEFENSE WITNESS

Lieutenant Dix of nearby Camp Butner, defense witness, the first military officer to reach the scene of disturbance, stated that in an effort to quiet the soldiers he had them form a line by joining hands in order to keep other soldiers from reaching Officer Bailey.

He said he had not seen the defendant perched upon the bannister and that he himself had given no command "At Ease," or any other command. The three police officers who preceded the lieutenant to the stand had testified that a military officer had given such a command. Two other lieutenants who had been at the scene also testified that neither had issued any "At Ease" order to the soldiers.

Richard S. George, manager of the Home Modernization and Supply Company, a defense witness, told the court that by actual measurement the height from the top rail of the bannisters to the ceiling of the porch was not more than 4 feet and some inches.

Defense attorneys contended that in view of that fact Allen was a man over five feet in height, it would have been impossible for him to have been in any such position upon the bannister as the prosecution claimed.

R. L. McDougald, well known citizen and banker, also an eyewitness to the incident, denied having seen the defendant in the vicinity. William J. Walker Jr., insurance executive, another eyewitness, who remained on the scene until a tear gas bomb had been thrown, testified that he had not seen Allen.

MAY 22 1943

VETERAN OFFICER

Officer Warren, a veteran of 22 years on the police force, stated that two soldiers had been kind enough to pick him up and put him over the bannister, and it was at this instant he saw the defendant standing on the bannister rail. He partly corroborated the testimony of prosecuted officers.

TROOPS QUELL RACE RIOT IN DURHAM, N. C.

MAY 10 1943

Free-For-All Follows Attack On Soldier By Liquor Control Agent

DURHAM, N.C.—A miniature race riot, here last Saturday night, resulted in the wounding of an undetermined number of colored civilians and soldiers and injuries to two white policemen and a white bus driver.

The fight occurred in a colored section of the city when an unnamed Negro soldier was blackjacked by a white officer, T. L. Bailey Jr., connected with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. It was not until tear gas was used and arrival on the scene of heavily armed detachment of soldiers that the participants, most of whom were unidentified, were dispersed.

According to witnesses, the colored soldier went into an ABC store and sought to make a purchase. He was refused after being questioned by the white agent as to the number of alcohol ration books he had in his possession. An argument ensued and in the resultant altercation the Negro was struck over the head with the blackjack.

Negroes To the Rescue

Bailey reported to police that he used his blackjack only after he had been menaced by a knife in the man's hands.

A free-for-all fight developed. The two policemen and the bus driver are said to have interceded. When this happened, it is reported, several colored men joined in the melee.

MAY 10 1943

In the meantime, a crowd of Negroes outside attacked a police squad car, cut the tires and tore away the radio aerial. Other vehicles are said to have been damaged and several persons injured by rocks and other thrown missiles.

Order was finally restored when troops arrived from nearby Camp Butner.

61-1943

Pennsylvania

PM
New York, N. Y.

6 Negroes Praised For Conduct in Riot

JUL 15 1943

Special Correspondence

GREENVILLE, Pa., July 15.—As an aftermath to the rioting which broke out at the Shenango Army Depot between Negro and white soldiers, resulting in the death of one Negro and injuries to six others, two seriously, Col. Zim E. Lawron, commanding officer yesterday commended six Negro soldiers for meritorious conduct during the disorder.

JUL 15 1943

"In the face of great danger to themselves," the commander's citation read, "when many around them had become excited and lost their self-control, these men remained at their posts. Their high sense of duty is most gratifying and should serve as an inspiration to the entire command."

JUL 15 1943

Lawron gave no further details on the disturbance which broke out Sunday night. At that time he said an investigation would be made.

FIVE WORKMEN SHOT IN SUN SHIP CLASH

Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

By JACK SAUNDERS
Staff Correspondent

CHESTER, Pa., June 24—A three-day investigation by this correspondent of the bloody, one-sided battle between guards and workers in the No. 4 yard of the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock company here last Wednesday, disclosed; among other things, that 5 men out of the five who were seriously injured by gunfire were innocent victims of circumstances.

JUN 26 1943

It was also learned that blame for the shooting is being laid to certain unionists and widespread union activity being conducted within the massive confines of Yard No. 4, manned by approximately 1500 skilled and unskilled Negro workers.

NAVY PROBES TROUBLE

An inquiry, launched last Thursday by the United States Navy at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, is now being conducted in a yeoman attempt to uncover what has been termed the "real source" behind the trouble.

Rumors of sabotage by enemy agents are on the upswing from Chester to Philadelphia relative to the shooting. In certain quarters it is being broadly stated—not hinted—that ace Axis agents have been sent from foreign points to the Sun Ship Yard and other defense plants to foment trouble between workmen and create disturbances calculated to disrupt the national defense program.

These rumors, however, are purely rumors and nothing more, for as yet there has not been presented any facts to back up such assertions and allegations.

JUN 26 1943

The men involved in the short-lived fracas were, Roger Hope, 24, of 211 North Ruby street; Edward Collier, 33, of 1833 North 23rd street; Franklin Gidding, 24, of 932 North 13th street, all of Philadelphia, and Wylie Kaywood, 34, of Pleasantville, N. J., and William Smith, 21, of 1001 W. 11th street, Chester.

All the men were confined at Chester hospital, and attempts by this correspondent to question them were to no avail. Officials at Chester hospital said point blank the Sun Ship Yard had ordered that no pictures be taken of the men, nor would they be permitted to see anyone to answer any questions relative to the shooting.

Gidding was detained at the hospital with gunshot wounds of the groin; Hope was suffering from gunshot wounds of both thighs; Collier sustained gunshot wounds of both legs; Kaywood was shot in the left hip, and Smith is suffering from a gunshot wound of the left hip.

Attempts to obtain names of the guards who fired the shots that wounded the men also proved futile. Company officials withheld names of the guards for reason yet undetermined.

INNOCENT VICTIMS OF SHOOTING

However, while I was unable to question either of the injured men, I contacted Mrs. Helen Collier, wife of Edward Collier. She recounted her version of the incident as told to her by eye-witnesses and her husband, whom she was permitted to see at the hospital.

Mrs. Collier said her husband told her that he was in the cafeteria when the trouble started. On leaving the cafeteria, Mrs. Collier quoted her husband as saying, he heard the report of a revolver and felt a sharp pain in his leg. She added that he denied having taken any part in the argument that led to the shooting.

Roger Hope lives with his mother and father. He told them, the parents said, that he was in the cafeteria eating a piece of pie when he heard men talking in loud voices. Leaving the cafeteria, he saw the crowd and soon heard gunfire. Hope started running, his parents said, and tripped and fell to the ground. While he was lying on the groundfl Mr. and Mrs. Hope stated, a guard shot him.

The statement of the Hopes was corroborated by an employee at Yard No. 4, who told this correspondent that he witnessed the incident from start to finish.

BLAME GUARDS

"The guards were in the fault," he said. "They did not have to fire on the men; shooting them was quite unnecessary."

Efforts to obtain statements from Sun Ship Yard officials also proved futile. Dr. Emmett J. Scott, director of personnel at Yard No. 4, said on Saturday, however, that everything was going on as usual at the yard.

He also said that 15 minutes after the shooting the men were back at work as though nothing had happened.

The day following the shooting, Edward Abrams, of Wilmington, Del., a CIO shop steward, was held in $3,000 bail on charges of inciting to riot. He was arrested by Chief of Police Driscoll, of Eddystone, on a warrant sworn to by a subordinate of Harry Shean, chief of the shipyard police.

NAVY GIVES VERSION

Before the start of its own inquiry Thursday, the Navy furnished the following version of the shooting which John G. Pew, Jr., an official of the company, said substantially represented the case.

"A guard in the No. 4 Yard of the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock company observed a man, who assertedly was not wearing an identification badge.

"Asked for the badge, the man refused. The guard was in the act of escorting him to the main gate when a crowd formed about the guard and the man, blocking their progress. The guard sent for assistance and three other company guards were dispatched to the scene.

JUN 26 1943

"Upon their arrival they found the guard and his charge almost completely surrounded. They attempted to disperse the crowd without success. A half brick was thrown by some one in the crowd. It struck one of the guards in the back of the head. Confusion ensued and during the melee several shots were fired.

COMPANY UNION BLAMES CIO

"Five employees received gun shot wounds and were taken to Chester hospital. The guards were placed under military arrest by the Navy Security authorities, pending investigation."

On Friday, however, in a formal statement, the president and secretary of the Sun Ship Employees' association placed upon the CIO the full blame for the disturbance.

The statement was signed by John Begley, president, and George A. Albany, secretary of the independent union at the plant, which has had a long feud with the CIO. The statement reads:

JUN 26 1943

"As a result of a riot instigated by CIO leaders, five No. 4 Yard workers were seriously injured Wednesday when guards were forced to fire into a mob that gathered in the street near the machine shop.

"It all started when CIO organizers surrounded three guards who were leading an employee to the guard box.

"Anticipating trouble, the guards took the man's number and let him go. He was returning to his job when a CIO leader in No. 59 welding department called a mob of CIO members together and started to rush the guards. Having no other way to protect themselves, the guards drew their guns in a vain effort to break up the mob that was rapidly closing in on them.

HOLD ELECTION NEXT WEDNESDAY

"At this point, someone threw a brick that hit one of the guards in the back of the head and started the excitement, during which five men were shot.

"Sun Ship Employees' association places all the blame for this black mark against the good record of the No. 4 yard has consistently maintained on the doorsteps of the CIO.

In direct opposition, the CIO has issued a statement saying the company was to blame for the trouble.

Next Wednesday, June 30, an election will be held at Sun Ship Yard, as to whether the yard will be organized as a CIO unit or line up with the SSEA. Whether the shooting will have any bearing on the election remains to be seen.

Navy Probe of Shipyard Riot Nears Finish

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Guards Who Shot Five Workmen Still Under Arrest

JUN 26 1943

PHILADELPHIA

The navy investigation of the shooting of five workmen in Yard No. 4 at the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation, Chester, by company guards is expected to be completed sometime this week, the AFRO was told.

JUL 3 1943

Meanwhile the four guards involved in the shooting, whose names were not made public, are being held under arrest by the navy pending outcome of the investigation.

No official charge has been placed against the guards who are members of the Coast Guard Reserve but are paid by the company, a navy spokesman said.

Victims' Condition "Fair"

Condition of the victims was described as fair Tuesday at Chester Hospital where they are detained. The wounded men are:

Frank Giddings, of 932 N. Thirteenth Street, shot in the stomach; Wiley Kaywood, Pleasantville, injured in the left hip; Rodger Hope, 221 N. Ruby Street, wounded in both thighs; William Smith, of 1001 W. Eleventh Street, Chester, shot in the left hip; and Edward Collier, of 1833 N. Twenty-third Street, shot in both legs.

Unions Blame Each Other

There were several versions of the shooting last Wednesday with the two unions, now campaigning to win bargaining agency rights at the NLRB election on June 30, blaming each other for inciting the disturbance.

The navy's tentative version was that a guard in the all-colored yard was escorting a man who refused to display his identification badge to the main gate when a crowd formed and blocked the progress of the two.

The guard sent for assistance. He was joined by three other guards, according to the navy, and the crowd refused to disperse.

Someone in the crowd is said to have tossed a brick which struck one of the guards on the head. In the confusion that followed, the guards fired twice into the air then into the crowd. . .

CIO Version

Another version was that it all began in the cafeteria when a guard ordered a worker back on the job and the worker said he would go as soon as he finished his meal since he had five minutes left. The men in the cafeteria were said to have been discussing the forthcoming election.

Representatives of the CIO Shipbuilding Union asserted that seven men in all were injured. The other two men were said to have been wounded in the arm and hands, treated at the dispensary and sent home. One of the men was said to be Don Pedro Norzon, of 2228 Christian Street, who recently joined the CIO union.

All of the men involved in the shooting, both victims and guards, were members of the Sun Ship Employees' Association, the union which now has the bargaining rights. SSEA officials contend that the victims were innocent bystanders in mob action prompted by CIO men.

Trouble Predicted

On the other hand, the CIO union pointed out that none of those involved belonged to their organization. Joseph P. Burge, regional director of the CIO union, charged the shooting was "another instance of a campaign of terrorism by certain irresponsible and provocative elements among the guards with anti-union attitudes."

A CIO representative said that Burge had protested to the company on March 13 against the "bulldozing tactics of certain guards" and predicted there would be trouble unless they were restrained.

CIO Man Held

One CIO member, Edward Abrams, of Wilmington, Del., was arrested on a charge of inciting to riot and held in $3,000 bail by Magistrate R. Robinson Lowry in Chester for a further hearing this week.

Abrams is alleged to have egged on the crowd that was marching the worker to the guard on duty at the main gate. A union spokesman said Abrams merely tried to go brawl but paid by the company, were to the rescue of one of the wounded men

CHESTER, Pa.—(ANP)—The citing a riot. navy, the U.S. Conciliation service and the Delaware County District Police Chief Michael Driscoll of Eddystone said Abrams was a man booked as Edward Abrams, of Wilmington, Del., was released in $3,000 bail on a charge of in-

Four guards, members of the Coast Guard Temporary Reserve held pending the investigation and

Zoot Suiters Beaten In Texas Riot

Following the attack, the four were taken to St. Agnes Hospital for treatment and then arrested

Sun Shipyard Riot Gets Triple Probe

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (CNS)—

61-1943

South Carolina

Charleston, S. C., News-Courier
June 29, 1943

Liberty Hill Quiet After Dispersal Of Negroes

The Liberty Hill section north of Charleston was quiet yesterday after reports that negroes had been stopping automobiles on the highway Sunday night to warn white occupants to stay out of that predominantly colored area.

County Chief of Police Daniel S. Mott and Captain Chris H. Ortmann, chief of city police, both reported all serene, and no signs of unusual tension. Beer parlors and other establishments which county police ordered closed in the Liberty Hill vicinity Sunday night, to hasten the dispersal of crowds, were allowed to open as usual yesterday morning.

It was not known how many motorists were stopped, nor how many were involved in the negro groups. Army officials said there was evidence to indicate that both soldiers and civilians were involved, but the units to which the soldiers were attached have not been identified.

Chris M. Limehouse, chairman of the county police commission, who went to the scene shortly after 9 o'clock with Chief Mott, County Lieutenant Percy W. Hardwicke, and several other county policemen, said white motorists were told they would be killed if they came through the Liberty Hill section again.

There was nothing to indicate what led to the affair. Chief Mott said that when his men arrived everything was quiet, and that a crowd of negroes present was not causing any disturbance. County and military police dispersed them, with negro residents being requested to go to their homes.

"They all cooperated," county police declared. There was no violence, and the soldiers present did not appear to be intoxicated, Chief Mott said.

61-1943

Tennessee

CITIZENS SAY NEGROES DID NOT INCITE RIOT

Pittsburgh courier
Pittsburgh Pa

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 22—Calling for an impartial investigation of a "disgraceful disturbance," a Citizens' committee, headed by the Rev. W. J. Faulkner, president of the local Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, has issued a statement saying the impression that a riot was created by colored persons Saturday night, April 3, is in error.

The disturbance, said the committee, grew out of the attempt of a drunken colored soldier to resist arrest, a result of which a riot call was said to have been turned in to police.

"The rioting," said the statement, "was one-sided, staged by heavily armed police."

MAYOR INVESTIGATED

Chief of Police John F. Griffin made no statement in connection with the charges but Mayor Thomas L. Cummings, when asked for comment on the committee's request for an investigation, said: "I have been invesigating this unfortunate situation for several days. My principal object is to ascertain how the original trouble started and where the responsibility for its growth and spread should be fairly fixed."

The committee, in asking that a recurrence of such an event be prevented, urged the "clean up" of places of vice and crime wherever found, and asked that colored persons be allowed to serve here both as military and civilian police as, it said, they are serving successfully in Little Rock and a number of other Southern cities. It declared "competent Negro police should certainly prove helpful in reducing law violations among Negroes.

The statement was signed by Faulkner, D. W. Crutcher and J. T. Patton of the Nashville Negro Board of Trade, and M. W. Day, chairman of the NAACP executive committee.

APR 24 1943

"Such tactics," said the statement, "are repugnant to the great majority of Southern people who believe in fair play and democratic institutions, and are deeply resented by the 45,000 Negro citizens of Nashville."

APR 24 1943

A complete investigation by the Dept of Justice of the part of military police in creating bad morale and inciting disunity in the civilian and military population of the South was urged by Exec. Sec. James A. Dombrowski of the conference.

PEOPLE'S VOICE NY NY

Ask Probe of Dixie M.P.'s

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(FP)—Military police were blamed by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare for inciting a riot here in which innocent women and children were severely clubbed and beaten.

APR 24 1943

Affidavits submitted to the Dept. of Justice show that for one and one-half hours on the night of April 3, military and civilian police "intimidated and terrorized" a large section of the Negro business area in Nashville.

APR 24 1943

"The trouble arose over the arrest of a drunken Negro soldier when some frightened person turned in an unwarranted riot call," a SCHW statement said, charging that in the ensuing disturbance a "nine-year-old boy was clubbed with the barrel of a riot-gun, women were beaten, many were dragged from business establishments and beaten while cash and property were left unguarded, shots were fired recklessly, and tear-gas was used against peaceful citizens offering no resistance."

61-1943

Texas

When Race Hatred Ran Riot in Texas Town

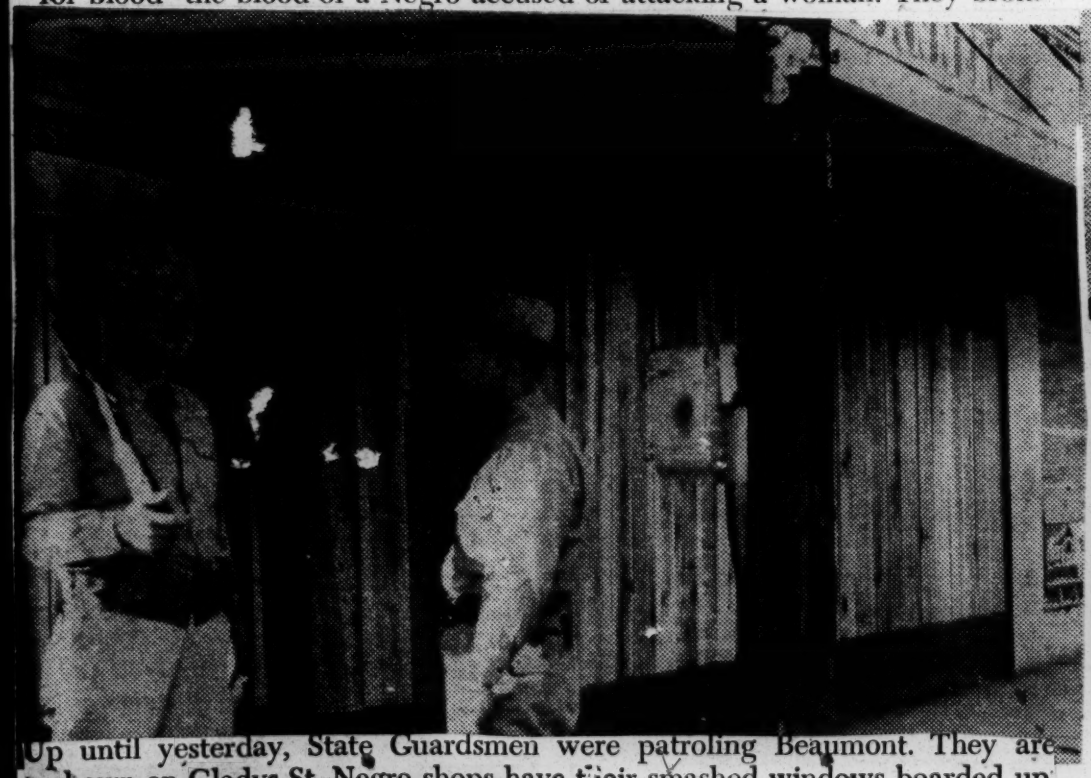
PM
New York, N. Y.



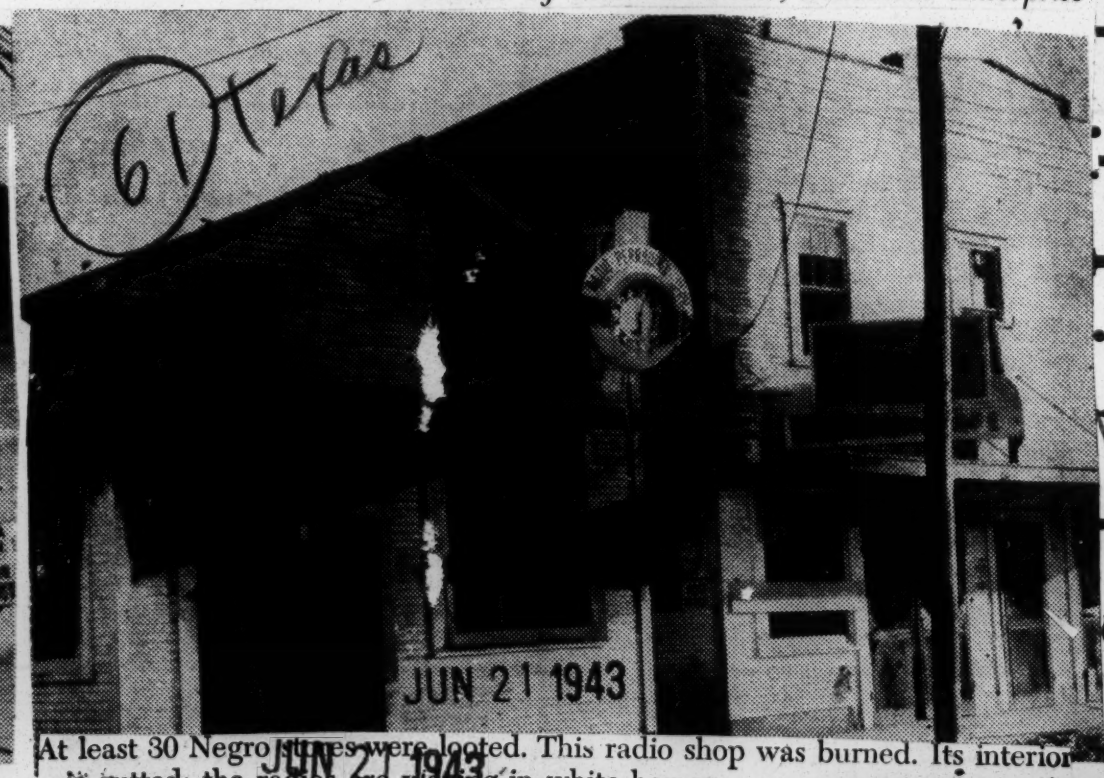
JUN 21 1943

This mob gathered before the Beaumont, Tex., jail last Tuesday. The men were shipyard workers, reinforced by stray hoodlums. They were looking for blood—the blood of a Negro accused of attacking a woman. They broke into the jail, found no suspect there. A physician later examined the woman and found no sign that she had been attacked.

Photos by Elmer Trumble, Beaumont Enterprise



Up until yesterday, State Guardsmen were patroling Beaumont. They are shown on Gladys St. Negro shops have their smashed windows boarded up.



61 Texas
JUN 21 1943

At least 30 Negro stores were looted. This radio shop was burned. Its interior is gutted; the radios are playing in white homes.

PM
New York, N. Y.
JUN 21 1943

FBI Seeks Axis Instigators As Negroes Flee Riot Town

Militia Leaves; Lifted

By Victor H. Bernstein
Staff Correspondent

Beaumont, Tex., June 21.—Martial law was lifted here yesterday and some 2000 State Guards and [illegible] of the 1943 Remaining are State police and Texas Rangers to augment the local police and the FBI, which is investigating the theory that last week's riots were instigated by Axis agents. (*Pictures on Pages 12 and 13.*)

What the FBI will find I do not know.

I do know that J. Edgar Hoover has never had a case of more overwhelming and urgent importance to the welfare of the country. There are a few people here, at least, who hope he shares this belief.

This is a war labor shortage area. Nevertheless, in the last few days at least 1000 Negroes have fled Beaumont. I have seen them swarming into trains. War production goes with them.

Bigger Than Texas

The Negroes think they are moving off into safety, but I am not so sure. There is evil in the air that is bigger than Beaumont and bigger than Texas. I am thinking of Pascagoula a few months ago and Mobile last month, as well as Beaumont last week, all shipbuilding centers.

This fact in itself suggests a possible pattern for the evil that ought to be interesting to FBI. I've said that I don't know what Hoover's men are going to find here. That isn't entirely true. I've spent four days talking to white rioters, Negro leaders and law enforcement agents. I know the kind of evidence the FBI is picking up.

At the end of May someone, or some group, was spreading rumors that there was race trouble ahead. The rumor mongers were busy among both whites and Negroes.

The date set for this two-day "revolution" was June 19, a Negro holiday commemorating their freedom from slavery.

While the rumors were gaining headway, a young Negro attacked an 18-year-old white girl on June 5. In the chase police shot him in the head and abdomen.

Crowd Threatens

A crowd of 200 or 300 gathered at the hospital, but police told them to disperse, saying "no use hangin' around, the nigger is goin' to die." I am told on good authority that the doctors let him die to avoid a lynching. The doctors deny this.

Then, last Tuesday, a woman living with her husband and three children in a tumbled down shack about three miles out of town told the police that she had been raped. The report came in to the police about 2 o'clock. That started the riots.

Over this weekend, a Negro was arrested for "inflammatory language" about the riots as he rode with other passengers on an all Negro bus. He has not yet been tried.

Martial Law Invoked to Quell Race Riot

PM
New York, N. Y.

Militia Moves In as 10,000 Gather to Continue War on Negroes in Beaumont, Tex.

By James R. O'Hanlon

Martial law replaced lynch law in Beaumont, Tex., today after 24 hours of the worst race rioting in the history of that State.

With 10,000 men gathering on the city's streets for a second night of attack on the Negro population, Acting Gov. A. M. Aiken, Jr., proclaimed martial law and city authorities established an 8:30 curfew which was enforced by the 1600 militiamen who had moved in after most of the Negro district was devastated by the torch on the previous night.

Chief of Police Ross Dickey told PM by telephone that "It's the worst racial trouble Texas has ever had."

"It's just a rebellion of whites against blacks," he said.

Most of the militia were stationed in the Negro quarter with orders to admit no white persons.

After the first 24 hours of rioting:

¶ Two whole blocks of Negro business houses had been reduced to ash and rubble.

¶ At least 100 Negro homes had been burned and their occupants beaten.

¶ Vital plants in the city's shipbuilding industry had been virtually shut down. Most of the rioters were said to be shipyard workers.

Businesses Close

¶ Most of the city's business firms, including department stores, had decided to shut down.

¶ Police and the militia had arrested more than 200 men, so many that the city's two jails couldn't hold them. A stockade was erected at the city's fair grounds to hold the overflow. All those held are white.

¶ One white man had been killed by gunfire, four other rioters had been wounded by their own men and more than 50 Negroes had been beaten so severely they required hospital treatment. There was no way of estimating how many others were assaulted by the mob.

All because a young mother allegedly was assaulted by a Negro.

Beaumont law enforcement officers—50 policemen and a few sheriff's deputies—displayed courage virtually unprecedented in the South in trying to put down the uprising. They got their example from their superiors, Chief of Police Dickey and Sheriff Bill Richardson, both of whom risked their lives at the hands of the mob.

The estimated 200 men who started the riot were joined as the night wore on by crowds of thrill-seeking boys who roamed through the Negro districts in packs, destroying whatever they encountered.

At the outset, the mob surrounded the city jail and called on Chief Dickey to surrender the suspected assailant. Dickey explained no arrest had been made. He ordered the men to disperse and offered to take a few of their number through the jail to prove no suspect was being held. Just then a Negro trusty, out on an errand, started through the mob's ranks back to jail.

The men started pummeling him. Dickey walked into the milling men and rescued the Negro, sending him into jail. The mob then darted off in search of other Negroes and rioted all night.

With daylight, the mob continued to parade boldly through the streets. Businessmen decided to shut down for the day. Negroes dared not venture from their homes. Even restaurants were closed.

Shipbuilding Disrupted

A majority of 25,000 shipyard workers in Beaumont and Orange, 25 miles away, stayed away from their jobs, according to telephone reports from the Beaumont *Enterprise*.

During the morning, before the arrival of militia, 100 men surrounded the county jail.

Sheriff Richardson, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, stepped out of the door, a submachine gun crooked in his arm.

"I'm damned tired of all this," he shouted. "Break up and go back to building ships like you should be doing."

Someone jeered.

"Let the damned fool that said that step up here," Richardson challenged. "Fact is, I'll take you all on—one at a time. And let me tell you, I'm going to keep law and order in this county."

Tear Gas Fired

The crowd obeyed. But the men reformed and ran to the Negro quarter again. This time they were met by Texas Rangers, who also had been ordered to the city.

About 200 men advanced on the officers. They were ordered to disperse. They stood their ground, so the Rangers fired tear gas into their ranks, scattering them.

That broke up the rioting for the time being, for by afternoon 500 militia had arrived and were patrolling the streets. The men, members of the State Guard, put up a wire barricade around the jail and the city hall, but there was no more violence.

All bus service in the city, which has a population of 85,000 of whom 15,000 are Negros, was suspended last night.

As a precaution against another outbreak, Acting Mayor George Gary ordered cancellation of all "Juneteenth" celebrations next Saturday. This is the day on which Negroes in the South annually observe the Emancipation Proclamation.

All public gatherings also were banned.

The editor of the *Enterprise* reported by telephone that the "better class" of people deplored the riots. He said there was a widely held belief that saboteurs working in the shipyards had inspired the violence.

Meanwhile, the youth who allegedly assaulted the white woman is still at large, and authorities say they can't even search for him until the violence subsides.

Race Rioting Sparked by Rape; Man Killed in Beaumont, Tex.

Washington, D. C. Washington Post
By the Associated Press

Beaumont, Tex., June 16.—Clashes between whites, today, a young mother, died from a fractured skull. A bus driver said he saw three Negroes beat Brown, but that they fled and the attacker was not there.

Violence by roving bands then started and lasted through the early morning hours. A dozen Negro houses and one Negro's automobile were burned. Several Negroes were pulled from their cars and beaten.

Negroes employed at the Pennsylvania shipyards were escorted home by defense guards when they left the night shift, but one of them was beaten just outside the gates.

Ellis Cleveland Brown, about 55, a white carpenter on a war project,

Ship Workers Walk Out

At nearby Orange, Tex., hundreds of Negro workers were walked out in small groups, leaving only a skeleton force. He said they made no statement and held no demonstration.

Many restaurants closed for lack of Negro help. Laundry service was disrupted. About two-thirds of the city's mail service was halted since many postmen are Negroes. All park and playground facilities were closed to keep crowds from congregating. Chief Ross Dickey closed all beer and liquor dispensaries.

Beaumont was ordered out of bounds for all Army men.

61-1943

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

70 Jailed In Dallas MP Clash

JAN 9 - 1943

DALLAS. — This Texas city was placed out of bounds for Negro soldiers on Sunday after a melee in the colored district between civilians and men in uniform.

It was reported that 70 Negroes were taken to a military police stockade after the disturbance, which started when two Negro soldiers in a cafe were unable to produce passes, then resisted arrest by military police.

A crowd in the Negro district, according to reports, attempted to prevent the men being taken into custody. It was said that the crowd surrounded the two M.P.'s and their handcuffed prisoners, and refused to allow the prisoners to be placed in a city patrol car.

Soon, three trucks of military police, city detectives and policemen, armed with shotgun and summoned by radio, arrived at the scene and dispersed the crowd, requiring two hours to clear the area. The two arrested soldiers were held for not having passes and the 70 other soldiers, charged with being members of the trouble-making crowd, were taken to the military stockade.

DALLAS COP CLUBS REPORTER AT RIOT

DALLAS.--During the nearriot Sunday in which some seven Negro soldiers were taken to military stockade, two Dallas Express reporters were victims of police brutality. Among the civilians who were clubbed during the disturbance was Elgin Hychew, a reporter of Dallas Express, who went home bloody after being struck, according to eyewitnesses, with the butt of a sawed-off shotgun. Doris Hollis, who was also at the scene, covering the battle had her camera taken from her by one of the police, but one of the officers who recognized her had it given back to her, she reported. Scores of people inquired of Hychew even as late as Monday night.

Many Reports Erroneous

Throughout Sunday afternoon and all day Monday the reports were making the rounds that Hychew had been severly beaten and taken to a hopital. But this was an exaggerated report. Many persons called at his room at the YMCA but were informed that the blow was not serious.

According to eye-witnesses and Hychew, he went through the crowd which was being herded east by police, trying to get to an officer to get his story. On reaching a civilian policeman and an MP, he was abruptly ordered to turn around and "beat it." Witnesses said that the news man explained his mission but to no avail. While obeying as ordered, Hychew was shoved and struck in the head with what eyewitnesses described as the butt of a sawed-off shotgun. He was ordered to leave the street and rushed from the scene, and went into the office of Dr. B. E. Howell who examined the bruise. On looking through the door from the first floor, the burly civilian policeman ordered the newsman out of the building and had the reporter searched. Another civilian policeman had joined the former when the search was ordered.

According to eyewitnesses, the innocent newsman made no suspicious gestures in his vain attempt to get the story. When asked what the officer's motives were, the reporter said Monday at the Express that he was unable to state, and declined to make comment on the matter other than that the incident had been reported to proper and capable authorities.

Miss Hollis, the other reporter went back on the scene, but reported that she still was not permitted to take any pictures of the battle which raged through the area for nearly three hours.

TEXAS

MP Floored In Cafe, A Near-- Riot Follows

The Informer Houston Texas

By DORIS HOLLIS

DALLAS, Texas.—Pandemonium reigned here at Thomas and Hall streets Sunday evening when what military police described as an inchoate riot occurred as the outgrowth of a fistic encounter between one of several military policemen who had been summoned to investigate an alleged theft and a soldier who asked the MP to permit him to finish a drink when ordered to leave a cafe.

The MP's had been called to Midway Cafe, but upon failure to make any headway towards solution of the theft, they ventured into Weem's cafe, where the soldier was seated at a table drinking beer. The soldier's request for time to finish his beer was met with an order to show his pass. A fight followed, the soldier flooring the MP with an expertly landed punch to the chin.

Quick to his rescue were the MP's two companions who proceeded to usher all the soldiers out and arrest the one who had resisted the officer.

MP's Stood Off

Soldiers and civilians stood off the MP's and proceeded to disarm them of their guns. A call was made for help to the military police office and to the city police, according to official reports. When the first squad car arrived a mass of civilians gathered around it and necessitated a radio call for more help. Soon afterward the entire block swarmed with armed uniformed patrolmen, city detectives and plainclothes police, as well as two squads of military police.

Two soldiers, reported to be intoxicated, were on the sidewalk near Weem's Tavern arguing and fighting when the police arrived. They were placed in the miltary police truck.

Numerous innocent civilians were injured when uniformed patrolmen ventured in and out of the business section and struck men and women over the head and about their bodies with the butts of their rifles and clubs, cramming them into business places and private homes in a "clear the streets" drive.

Many of the civilians who were injured had shown no attempt to resist whatever; however Sgt. Garner of the uniformed patrol stated that some civilians attempted to take officers' guns.

The Round-Up

There was no gunfire, no one was stabbed, and no one suffered serious injuries, but both civilians and soldiers refused to be pent up and occasionally a crowd would gather or maneuver in and out of the jammed business places. The State Theatre became overflowed with free patrons as the uniformed police drove groups that sprinkled the streets into the shelter, backing their orders with striking rifles and abusive language.

Capt. Charles C. Heaton, provost marshal, answered the riot call and upon entering the theatre ordered all soldiers outside and lined them across the street. An assemblage of about seventy was given the order to get out of town and report to their commanding officer.

A tour of all cafes, taverns, drug stores and Negro businesses was made and soldiers were ordered to get out of Dallas.

JAN 9 - 1943

Out of Bounds

Out of the approximate 500 soldiers who were in the metropolis, 75 were rounded up and placed in the military police squad cars because they persisted in grouping together. Dallas was declared out of bounds for all soldiers Sunday afternoon and throughout the night military police patrolled the area to pick up any soldier found on the streets of elsewhere. At press time it had not been ascertained which soldier had been the direct cause of the disturbance, but to give it, for Negro soldiers, had been lifted. The action taken by Capt. Heaton, the provost marshal, Sunday afternoon, was to quell the immediate disturbance, and it was not intended that Negro soldiers should be prevented from visiting Dallas Headquarters, Eighth Service Command to Dallas either in connection with Negro or white soldiers with any off-limits ban affecting the entire city of Dallas, or any part thereof.

Off-Limit Ban Lifted

Assurances have been given that adequate military and civilian police will be used in various districts where soldiers congregate on week-ends to insure the orderly handling of similar situations in the event that they arise.

A Phone Call

According to military police reports, an employee of the Midway Tavern telephoned a complaint that the gun which was kept in the place had been stolen and that he suspected a soldier. This information was confirmed in an interview

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Off-Limit Ban Lifted

Headquarters, Eighth Service Command advised the press that in the orderly course of their any off-limits ban affecting the duties, leave time, or off-duty time, entire city of Dallas, or any part thereof.

JAN 9 - 1943

TEXAS

with the employee. In answering the call, MP's, according to witnesses, went into the tavern where a few soldiers were scattered about the tables. The employee was asked what the trouble was and where the suspect was. He was unable to identify any particular soldier and suggested that he probably had gone; he didn't know the name of the suspect and couldn't be certain about the name some person gave.

JAN 0 - 1943

The MP's left the tavern and went to Weems' and the vicinity where trouble immediately brewed. At press time the management of the Midway Tavern reported that the gun was still missing.

The Press in the Riff

In the seething disturbance, Dallas Express reporters emerged through the crowds on the scene. One staff member was struck across the head with a rifle and received a minor injury. A military policeman snatched the camera away from a young woman of the press;

Birmingham, Ala., News
June 17, 1943

Negro Section Literally 'Stomped Into Ground' Troop Officer Asserts

Two Killed, 10 Injured And 20 Houses Burned In Beaumont, Tex., Riot

BEAUMONT, Tex.— (AP) —Col. Sidney C. Mason, in command of state troops enforcing martial law here, said Thursday the Negro section of Beaumont was "literally stomped into the ground" during race disturbances precipitated by two recent criminal assault cases in which Negroes were suspects.

"From a destructive standpoint it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the first World War," Col. Mason added.

Col. Mason's comment on the damage was made as this Southeast Texas city of more than 100,000 persons awoke Thursday under the watchful eye of some 2,400 peace enforcement personnel under his command.

The city had its first undisturbed sleep in two days after rioting which started late Tuesday night had taken the lives of one white man and one Negro.

Bus transportation resumed Thursday and most retail establishments were again open for business.

Some establishments had closed because of lack of help after Negroes were ordered off the streets. Others closed to keep crowds from congregating.

Defense guardsmen, Texas Rangers, and law officers had the city under guard during the night. Numerous arrests were made for violation of the curfew order barring from the streets all persons not having essential business through the night hours.

The destruction in the Negro section, Col. Mason explained, including the burning of up to 20 Negro houses and establishments, and the wrecking of a beer parlor, in which windows were shattered and furniture broken.

The first of the incidents leading up to the disturbances occurred about a week ago. A white girl telephone operator reported to police that a Negro, later fatally shot by officers, attacked her near a warehouse.

In the second case a housewife, mother of three children, told police a Negro yardworker attacked her after she had hired him to work at her home.

Crowds of white men surged into the Negro section. The riots starting early Wednesday morning were followed by a declaration of martial law Wednesday night and the city was swarming with militia in uniforms Thursday.

Columbia, S. C., State
June 18, 1943

Workers Warned Not to Revive Race Tension

Beaumont, Tex., June 17—(AP)—The commander of state troops enforcing martial law in this city of 100,000 warned shipyard workers today to refrain from any action that would revive tension in the race situation which yesterday took two lives and injured scores.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, who addressed the workers at the request of shipyard officials, said military men now were maintaining order.

Shipyard officials who declined to be quoted by name said the workers were overheard discussing the possibility of taking 300 men reportedly held for military court inquiry away from authorities.

The 15-hours of sporadic rioting was precipitated by a young white woman's story that a Negro had raped her. City Attorney Albert Tantum said the validity of her account was being checked and that a physician's examination had opened the story to question.

During the violence, a number of Negro homes were destroyed and many businesses were disrupted.

City officials said a check was being made on the possibility that "fifth column activities" may have inspired the rioting.

61-1943

Texas

"Freedom from Fear" Greatest Stake of Southerners in War

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

People of Riot-Torn Beaumont Not Fleeing Dixie, Writer Finds; Exposes Collusion Between Riff-Raff and "Better Class." Who Profit by Work of Hoodlums

By RALPH MATTHEWS
Editor of the Washington
AFRO-AMERICAN

BEAUMONT, Texas.—Smarting under the shame of a hideous race riot, in which the homes and businesses of innocent colored people were burned and destroyed, the substantial white citizens of the city are attempting to salve their consciences by rehabilitating the victims.

My investigation showed that early reports to the effect that colored citizens are leaving Beaumont by the thousands are without foundation.

In interviews with persons found awaiting trains at the various stations and bus terminals, I found that they all had fairly plausible reasons for making their departure, and few attributed their leaving to the riot.

Death or sickness among relatives at home at some distant or nearby point was the most prevalent reason.

Can Happen Anywhere

One woman, en route to Louisiana, put it quite philosophically when she said: "What's the use of running away from Beaumont? The same thing can happen any place down South, and from reports from Detroit and Los Angeles, there isn't much need of going either north or west.

"I guess I might as well stay right here. We've had our riot and a lot of the hoodlums who have been itching for a scrap have got it out of their systems."

She admitted that she was still a little scared.

Beaumont now is very much like a drunk who wakes up with a big head after a spree and swears he'll never take a drink again as long as he lives.

Collusion Hinted

The substantial citizens have requested a committee of colored leaders to take an inventory of damage done, and at luncheons and informal meetings, merchants and businessmen have been soliciting pledges among themeslves to restore the businesses of those who were burned out.

Observers are asking whether or not this is a part of the Dixie technique: to keep colored people both obligated to their white masters and afraid of the lower element which is permitted to do the dirty work of maintaining white supremacy.

The system works very handily to the eternal detriment of the colored group.

Fear Independence

Whenever the colored population becomes too independent economically, as it has during the present war boom, the riff-raff is allowed to go on a rampage with a riot or a lynching with the tacit consent of the "better citizens," who raise no hand of protest, although they do not participate.

This spreads the gospel of fear in the hearts of the colored group and keeps them in their place.

Then JUL 3 1943 soft, substantial citizens cry crocodile tears over the shame which has been brought upon their righteous community, view with alarm and deplore the lack of restraint on the part of the poor white trash, and make a great pretense at making amends to prove that the "good white people of the South" are the colored man's best friend.

That is the plan which is being followed today here in Beaumont.

The Other Side

This is one side of the situation. The other is that there are a few fair-minded individuals who go their way oblivious of the mounting tensions that are seething below the surface of the laboring group as small towns are swollen by population influxes due to war industry and training camps, and they are actually shocked when these volcanoes of racial strife erupt.

This, too, happened here in Beaumont, where the population has been practically doubled since Pearl Harbor, but all of the municipal machinery, including the police force, the educational system, hospital and health agencies, has not been increased but has actually been depleted due to inroads by the armed forces and city workers' being lured away by higher paying jobs.

Race's Big Question

The big question facing the race in the South today is, What course shall it take?

Will there be a wholesale exodus similar to that which followed the last war, or will they stay and fight it out, hoping that the vicissitudes of war will bring even this benighted section to accept the four freedoms—the greatest of which is the freedom from fear?

The people of Beaumont have for the moment decided to follow the latter course. Only time will determine the wisdom of their choice.

JUL 3 1943

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Texas City Is Quieter Under Martial Law

BEAUMONT, TEXAS, June 17. (AP)—The commander of State troops enforcing martial law in this city of 100,000 warned shipyard workers today to refrain from any action that would revive tension in the race situation which yesterday took two lives and injured scores.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, who addressed the workers at the request of shipyard officials, said military men now were maintaining order.

Shipyard officials who declined to be quoted by name said some workers were overheard discussing the possibility of taking 300 men held for military court inquiry away from authorities.

The 15 hours of sporadic rioting was precipitated by a young white woman's story that a negro had assaulted her. City Attorney Albert Tantum said the validity of her account was being checked and that a physician's examination had opened the story to question.

During the violence, a number of negro homes were destroyed and many businesses were disrupted.

JUN 18 1943

Beaumont Riot Result Of Lie ?

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

BEAUMONT, Texas — (ANP)— A story by a white mother that she had been attacked by a Negro to whom she had given work was probably false, city officials opined Thursday following two days of wild race rioting and the looting and burning of Negro stores and homes by white hoodlums during which at least two persons were killed and scores injured.

JUN 20 1943

Blame for the violence, part of a wave of anti-minority terrorism resulting in the California zoot suit riots against Negroes and Mexicans and clashes between white and colored in Mobile and Detroit, and a lynching in Florida, was laid openly at the door of axis activities.

DOUBT IS CAST

City Attorney Albert Tatum said a physician's examination of the white attacked "victim," wife of a war plant worker, cast "extreme doubt" on her story. She had told police that her assailant came to her with a story of how he had been rejected by the army and was without money. During the afternoon, after she had put her three children to bed for their naps, he entered the house and assaulted her, she said.

Police Chief Ross Dickey declared there have been rumors of fifth column activity here and asserted "we have been checking up on them"

JUN 20 1943

Beaumont is the same city where a week before the mob seeking to lynch a dying Negro was dispersed because "it lacked leadership." The intended victim was a youth who assaulted a white girl to keep from going to the army and who was shot by police the girl led back to the site of the attack.

PROBE DISTURBANCE

A closed court of inquiry was called last week to probe the riots and weigh the cases of 17 prisoners. Sixteen were freed and the other turned over to the city authorities. Draft officials sat with the court to determine whether the draft deferments of 300 men reportedly held should be cancelled.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, in command of 1,400 state troops sent here to enforce martial law, declared the Negro section was "literally stomped into the ground" and that "from a destructive standpoint, it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the first World War."

Bus transportation was resumed late last week in this city of 100,000 persons and most retail establishments were reopened for business after closing during hostilities because of lack of help when Negroes were ordered off the streets and to keep crowds from congregating.

200 HOMES BURNED

Destruction included the burning of at least 200 Negro houses and establishments, the wrecking of a beer parlor and the burning of Negro automobiles.

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Tex

JUN 20 1943

This took place soon after word got around that the white woman had been attacked. There seemed to be no organized mob, but instead many groups of rioters who swarmed into the Negro section.

JUN 20 1943

Fires were set, homes were wrecked. Many cars of white persons were seen going through the streets with radios, clocks and other articles that had apparently been stolen from these stores and homes.

White men chased a group of Negro youths from a bus station where they were awaiting transportation to an army induction center. The white men were arrested and the Negroes escorted safely from town.

SHERIFF ACTS BRAVELY

Fearlessness of Sheriff Bill Richardson broke up one crowd of 100 that appeared at the 14 story court house to get the mythical assailant of the woman. Coming to the door with a submachine gun in the crook of his arm, he told the mob he was "damned tired of all this" and ordered the men to "get back to building ships as you should be doing." When somebody shouted an insult, Richardson invited him and all the others to step up and he'd take them all on one at a time.

JUN 20 1943

Several hundred mobsters were arrested and the cases of most are still awaiting action.

The two fatalities were Ellis Cleveland Brown, white, said to have been slugged by three Negroes who attacked him on the street, and John Johnson, who said a group of white men fired on him as he was entering a car at the ice plant where he was employed.

Cleveland Brown, 55 years old, by a union card found on him.

Whites and Negroes had clashed throughout the city since late yesterday when a young white mother told authorities she had been assaulted by a Negro yard worker.

Texas Rangers used tear gas to disperse a mob of 200 white men who started today in Beaumont, asserted last night. A mob of a persed by the Rangers after they One white man was killed today in rioting between mobs of white

TEAR GAS ROUTS RACE RIOTERS

Seattle, Washington Northwest Enterprise

JUN 23 1943

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 16.—assaulted the young wife of a defense worker. The man was identified as Ellis had gathered on the Negro section.

by Sheriff Bill Richardson in front of his office in the courthouse, were congregated in the heart of the Negro section.

Detective Capt. Barney Craft of the city police force said that Rangers first tried to persuade the group to break up and when the men ignored the warnings, the Rangers tossed tear-gas bombs, scattering the mob.

Earlier a mob of approximately 100 men had been dispersed by Sheriff Richardson, who, with a submachine gun slung over his right arm, told them to get out of the courthouse and "go on back to building your ships."

Some of the crowd of men shouted:

"You Negro lover!"

Richardson moved a step forward.

"Let the damned fool that said that step up!" he shouted. "In fact, I'll take you all on—one at a time."

"Let me tell you," the sheriff added, "I'm going to keep order th law in this county."

Richardsin said the mob had hindered the capture of the Negro by last night's fighting, which Richardson said gave the Negro a 15-hour start.

"You fellows," he said, "took up all the time of the peace officers needed to keep order."

Tenseness seemed to relax after Richardson had spoken. The mob dispersed, although Texas state guardsmen continued to surround police headquarters where several of 75 white men arrested by the Ranger were being held. Guardsmen were armed with bayoneted rifles and submachine guns.

Other men arrested were being held at the county jail.

Police Hunt for Negro

Police and sheriff's deputies were searching the surrounding country for the Negro and watching highways and roads leading out of Beaumont.

No deaths were reported from hospitals where the injured, both white and Negro, had been taken. One hospital was filled with injured Negroes, one of whom was in critical condition.

Meanwhile Negroes either stayed off the streets or traveled with police protection. Laundries and restaurants, dependent on Negro help, remained closed. Highway patrolmen escorted several hundred Negro workers from the Pennsylvania Shipyards and took them to the Negro districts.

More Ammunition Sought

As the situation grew more tense, following night-long rioting, fighting and burning by groups of white men, police sent to Port Arthur and Orange for ammunition replenishments as they called on the Texas Rangers, Texas highway police, Office of Civilian Defense, auxiliary police and Texas State Guardsmen for help.

Fire Chief Steve O'Connor announced that the Fire Department had answered 16 alarms in the Negro section since midnight. O'Connor said there was extensive property damage along Gladys Street, main Negro thoroughfare.

CITY PUT UNDER MARTIAL LAW TO CURB RACE RIOT

Chicago Tribune

Chicago, Illinois

Troopers Called Out at Beaumont, Tex.

Beaumont, Tex., June 16 [Special].—This city was placed under martial law tonight and Adjt.-Gen. Arthur S. Knickerbocker ordered 1,000 state defense guards out to restore order after a day and night of race rioting during which thousands of war workers left their jobs.

One man was killed and 10 others were sent to hospitals for injuries suffered during the rioting which broke out last night after the wife of a white war worker reported she had been raped by a Negro who invaded her home while her husband was at work.

The huge Pennsylvania ship yards, employing 9,000 persons, closed today for lack of help as the result of a walkout which began during the night as word of the rape spread among the workers.

At Austin Acting Gov. A. M. Aiken said he had placed Beaumont under martial law at the request of civic leaders and officials.

Tear Gas Disperses Mob.

Texas Rangers under command of Capt. L. H. Purvis joined local police, deputy sheriffs, and highway patrolmen in attempting to control the widespread disorder against Negroes. Capt. Purvis said tear gas was used to break up one mob of 200 white men and that approximately 75 white men have been jailed.

Most cafés were closed here today and many stores shut their doors to prevent damage from the milling crowds.

The only fatality was Ellis Cleveland Brown, 55, a white carpenter on a construction project, who was found dead of a fractured skull in his hotel room at noon today.

Ambulance Service Halted.

Sheriff W. W. Richardson said that the 10 persons in hospitals included both whites and Negroes, and that many additional Negroes injured in beatings were in need of hospital treatment, but unable to secure it because Negro ambulance service had been suspended.

Circulation of a rumor that the Negro suspected of committing the rape had been arrested caused a crowd to gather at the county jail this morning. Sheriff Richardson took a committee of citizens thru the jail in order to prove that the Negro was not there.

Four blocks of buildings in the Negro section were damaged by mobs last night and today, Mayor George Gary reported. Roving groups of white men burned parked automobiles belonging to Negroes and demolished the interiors of Negro restaurants and other places of business.

Several Negroes assembled at a bus station en route to Houston to be inducted into the army were set upon by a mob last night and many of them were severely beaten. J. A. Alexander, 31, a Port Arthur Negro, was taken to a hospital suffering from a throat wound.

Maj. Gen. Richard Donovan at Dallas declared Beaumont out of bounds for all army personnel until further notice.

Search for Rapist.

Sheriff Richardson said he has a good description of the Negro sought for the rape and hopes to be able to make an arrest as soon as the rioting is quieted.

This Negro came to a home on the edge of the city yesterday morning and asked for work, the sheriff said. He was put to weeding the garden and later was given a meal by the white mother of three children. Learning that the husband worked at night in a war factory, he returned in the evening and assaulted her, according to the sheriff.

FBI SEEKS AXIS AGENTS IN CLASHES

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 24—Presence of FBI agents, sent to investigate the recent riot here, became known this week as several Negro persons were questioned for information about the possible existence of Axis agents as instigators of the riot. It is known that the FBI agents have begun an exhaustive examination of witnesses to determine whether or not the white woman, who alleged she was attacked by a Negro worker, has any connection with Nazi agents.

Another trend, indicated by FBI activity here thus far, is to find out the facts concerning the attacks upon Negro inductees by white civilians here during the riot.

Both the presence of Nazi activity here, as well as the actions of rioters, in interfering with Negro soldiers and inductees furnishes the basis for federal criminal prosecution.

Axis Agitation In Texas Race Riot Suspected

Washington Post

Beaumont, Tex., June 17.—City officials suggested today that enemy influence may have inspired the race riots of the last two days which resulted in the deaths of two men, injury to scores and extensive property damage in the Negro section.

Authorities enforcing martial law called a court of inquiry for this afternoon to investigate the disturbances.

Chief of Police Ross Dickey said "there have been rumors of Fifth Column activity here and we have been checking up on them."

City Attorney Albert Tatum said a physician's examination of a white woman cast doubt on her story that she had been raped by a Negro while her husband was at work at a war plant.

Appeal to Shipworkers

Col. Sidney C. Mason, in command of State Troops enforcing martial law, called for the military hearing.

In an address to shipyard workers, Mason asked them to refrain from any action that would revive tension.

Shipyard officials, who asked Mason to speak and who declined to be quoted by name, said the workers were overheard discussing the possibility of taking from authorities the 300 men held for military court inquiry.

Earlier, the colonel said the Negro section of Beaumont was "literally stomped into the ground" during the outbreaks.

"From a destructive standpoint, it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the First World War," Colonel Mason added.

Colonel Mason's comment on the damage was made as this southeast Texas city of more than 100,000 persons awoke today under the watchful eye of some 2400 peace enforcement personnel under his command.

The city had its first undisturbed sleep in two days, after rioting which started late Tuesday night had taken the lives of one white man and one Negro.

Bus transportation was resumed today and most retail establishments were again open for business.

Up to 20 Negro Homes Burned

Some establishments had closed because of lack of help after Negroes were ordered off the streets. Others closed to keep crwods from congregating.

Numerous arrests were made for violation of the curfew order barring from the streets all persons not having essential business through the night hours.

The destruction in the Negro section, Colonel Mason explained, included the burning of up to 20 Negro houses and establishments, and the wrecking of a beer parlor.

The first of the incidents leading up to the disturbances occurred about a week ago. A white girl telephone operator reported to police that a Negro, later fatally shot by officers, attacked her near a warehouse.

In the second case, the housewife, mother of three children, told police a Negro yard worker attacked her after she had hired him to work at her home.

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

Authorities Check Shooting To Rumors

EL PASO, Tex.—(AP)— Military authorities Monday sought the origin of false reports of race rioting—reports which they blamed for the death of a Negro soldier and critical injuries to a white soldier Sunday.

Ft. Bliss authorities authorized a statement that Negroes had received untrue reports that there was rioting in El Paso. The officials said a number of Negroes from the camp responded to a false call for help from their companions in the downtown area.

Army authorities said a group of Negro soldiers incited the camp and attempted to arm themselves by taking weapons away from sentries, said. The shooting was reported by a Negro, one of Ft. Bliss officers said.

cally wounded by a Negro soldier who had tried to take Brown's gun away from him.

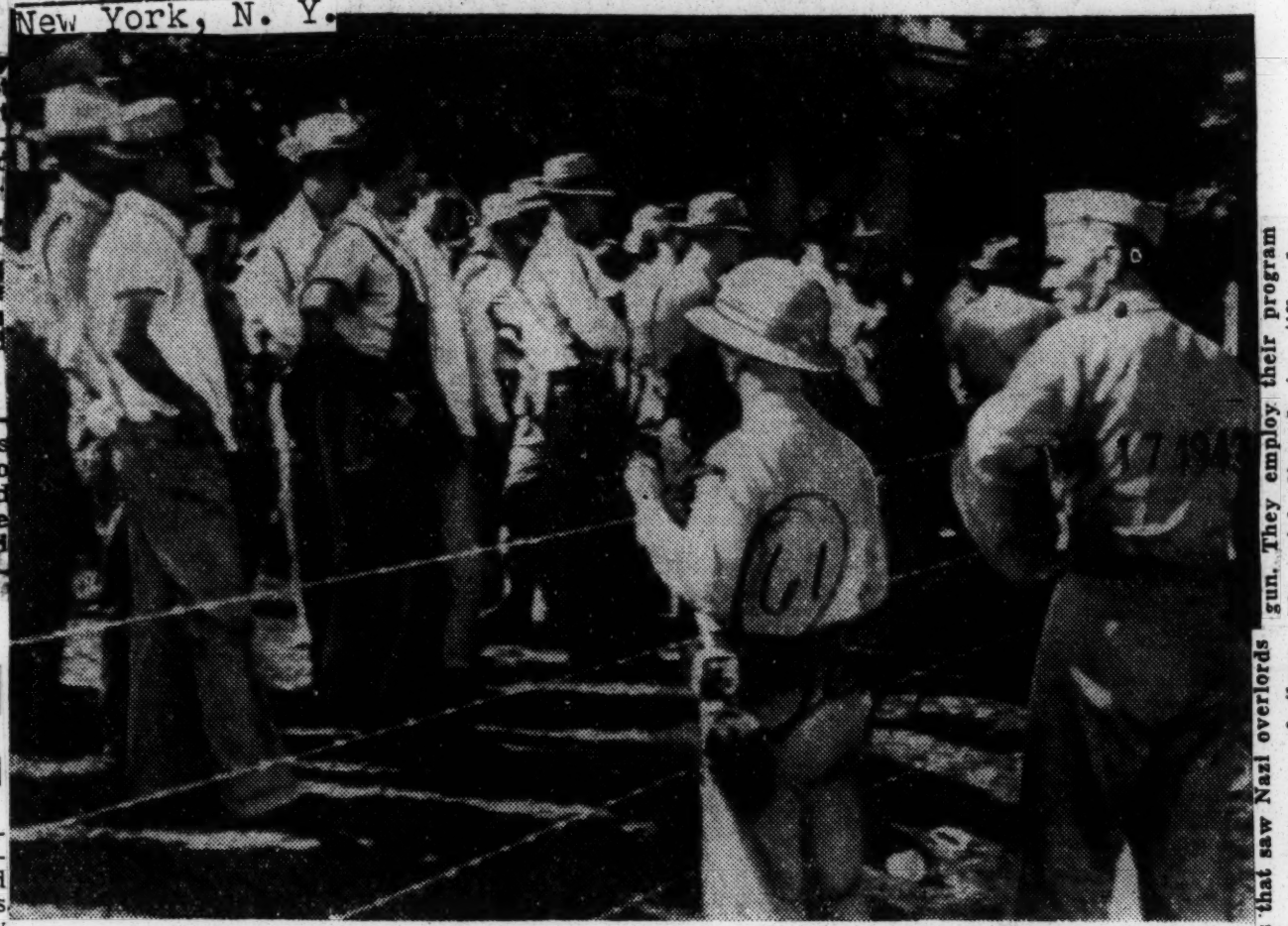
Pvt. Paul V. Brown, 367th Search-light Battalion, was shot and killed a Negro, Pvt. Otis Gariner, 394th Coast Artillery, ensued.

61-1943

Texas

Where Riots Flare

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.



Telephoto by Acme Newspictures.

Texas Defense Guards behind barbed wire on the lawn of the City Hall keep an enraged white mob away from the jail where Negroes are being held in Beaumont, Tex.

...ear Riot When Tex. Restaurant Ba...ns

Argus

LEVELLLAND, Tex. — Nearly 3,000 Mexicans staged a near-riot here Saturday when a fight started in a restaurant after prospective Mexican customers found a sign on the door.."No Mexicans Fed." St. Louis, Mo.

Hockley county Sheriff Ed Hofacket, known as the sheriff who never carries a gun," quieted the milling mob with the aid of a Mexican friend who addressed the crowd in Spanish .

No one was killed

Only [illegible] reported injured. Details were not clear as to how the fight started and no one knew the name of the injured man, who disappeared from the scene of the fight after he had been hit on the head with a bottle.

NOV 5 1943

Race Riot Investigated In Night-Long Session

Birmingham, Ala.
News

BEAUMONT, Tex.—(AP)—A military court of inquiry to fix responsibility for race riots dismissed nearly 40 of more than 200 prisoners in a night-long session Thursday night, and early Friday the court was still in session.

JUN 18 1943

Thirteen prisoners were held, after questioning, for city, county and federal authorities.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, commanding state troops assigned to enforce martial law, sternly warned shipyard workers not to take any rash action which would revive tension.

Two men were fatally injured and scores were hurt in rioting touched off Tuesday when a white woman reported she had been attacked by a Negro.

Sheriff W. W. Richardson said a check was being made into the validity of the woman's claim. He said a doctor's examination showed no evidence of a criminal attack but that the woman's story stood up in every particular.

The Pennsylvania Shipyards reported about 85 per cent of its workers, some of them Negroes, were at their jobs Thursday.

JUN 16 1943

A curfew was again in effect Thursday night.

Police Chief Ross Dickey declared "anything that takes men away from the shipyards for a cause such as that when hundreds walked off the job this week is sabotage."

He said the Police Department had not been able to trace the cause to fifth columnists, but added:

"There is somebody behind it and if I could get my hands on him I would wring his neck."

Court Launches Texas Riot Probe

By the United Press.

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 17.—A court of inquiry presided over by Lt. Col. Royal G. Phillips today began an investigation of the destructive race riot which raged here for more than 16 hours, resulting in death of two persons and property damage in excess of $20,000.

Observers believed the rioting, which started Tuesday night after the white mother of three children reported she was raped by a Negro man, had stopped. State Guard officers said, however, martial law would continue indefinitely.

At Least 60 Hospitalized.

At the last compilation it was estimated at least 60 or more persons were injured seriously enough to require hospital treatment and that 12 of these still were in hospitals.

Colonel Phillips, assistant chief of staff of the Texas State Guard, said each of the cases of the more than 125 white men arrested "will be tried on its individual merits" at secret hearings.

Lt. Col. Sidney C. Mason of Austin, placed in charge when martial law was declared late yesterday by acting Gov. A. M. Aiken, Jr., said a search had uncovered scores of shotguns, pistols, a bolo knife and a sawed-off shotgun.

Property Destroyed.

"A very small percentage came from the Negroes," Colonel Mason said.

[Colonel Mason told the Associated Press that the Negro section was "literally stomped into the ground." "From a destructive standpoint, it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the first World War," he added.]

On the main Negro thoroughfare, a funeral home, cafe, radio shop, liquor store, drug store and at least 12 dwellings were damaged and pillaged. From 10 to 15 automobiles driven by Negroes were burned and their occupants attacked.

JUN 17 1943

Martial Law Is Lifted In Beaumont

Atlanta Ga.

BEAUMONT, Texas—(S N S)—Martial law had been lifted here Monday and state defense guardsmen returned to their homes. Beaumonts was the scene of riots last week.

JUN 22 1943

A military court of inquiry concluded its investigation Saturday and ordered 28 men held for further action.

In ordering martial law lifted, Acting Governor A. M. Aikin, Jr., said: "Order has been restored and we feel the situation is well in hand and that local officers are in position and well able to preserve order."

Rioting started here after a white mother claimed she had been attacked by a Negro. Two lives were lost and considerable property damage was inflicted in a section where colored people live.

Daily Worker

Davis Blames Beaumont Riot On City Fathers; Separate Buses Cited

Houston, Texas Informer

...the American way of life, meant ...cities and ... industries. ... nothing ... The buses ... passed him up because ... they were operated in accord with the Beaumont way of ...

Two months ago Private Conrad Clark, after accompanying Carter Wesley and the writer to Beaumont, wrote an article with a head to this effect:

"In Beaumont, Soldier Writes, I Might As Well Have Been Somewhere in Nazi Germany." Private Clark had seen city buses operated in a city that is an important vein in the muscles of democracy pass him up because ... he happened to be ... of the "wrong" color ... Uncle Sam's uniform, symbolic of the struggle to preserve freedom and

JUN 26 1943

...material in the war effort. Citizens of Beaumont can be ...ducive conditions for a Hitler invasion prevailed at the time of their riots. These conditions ... the glorious armies and air squadrons and their daring feats on the far-flung battlefields across the seas. These armies have Hitler's forces too busy "over there" to permit thought of invading America.

But Hitlerian and Fascist forces ...tioned and sponsored that page ...from the Nazi book . . It was an invitation to axis agents to strike at the lower belly of our defense. Beaumont's city fathers sanctioned and sponsored the same technique Hitler employed to [illegible] against many and other European countries to finally establish a state of affairs that saw Nazi overlords ...step in as conquerors of those who had been maneuvered into a fight among themselves.

Press associations reports suggest the possibilities that axis hands played roles in both the Mobile and Beaumont riots. Both are coastal cities and centers of key defense industries. Isn't it playing game to tie up work on defense ... in these cities? ... of both Mobile and Beaumont be thankful that no conditions for a Hitler in... prevailed at the time of ... riots. Thanks for that go to ... glorious armies and air squadrons and their daring feats on the ... battlefields across the ... seas. These armies have Hitler's ... too busy "over there" to ... permit thought of invading America.

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...Beaumont is the metropolis of the ...congressional district that sent the ...ardent "hunter" of un-American-...ism, Martin Dies, up to Congress.

...answer that query, recent[illegible] since

200 Negro Homes, Business Places Destroyed, Looted

Houston Texas Informer

JUN 26 1943

BEAUMONT.—Martial law was lifted here Sunday, and the citizens of Beaumont turned to contemplate the cost of their spree in blood, life, property, racial amity and reputation for war production. The pile of wreckages they viewed was appalling, showing more than 200 Negro houses and establishments destroyed, two whites and one Negro killed, several Negroes burned, others beaten, and their so-called superior citizens had resorted to looting, stealing much from the Negro houses that had been destroyed. To some most appalling was the reputation that they had gotten throughout the nation for brutality.

Now they had a chance to see again the many automobiles that had been wrecked or set afire. They could see themselves chasing Negroes through the streets. They could see themselves and their friends riding through the city with clocks, radios and other momentos gathered from the destroyed homes of Negroes. The fires of vengeance having died out, the citizens of Beaumont did not view themselves with such high esteem this week.

Had Been Feeding It

The citizens and authorities at Beaumont had been feeding this racial hatred, building toward a riot for many months. It was in Beaumont where a Negro soldier, after having been arrested and put in the patrol wagon, was shot four times by police officers.

It was in Beaumont where segregation had been taken to the extreme by running busses upon which Negroes could not ride at all, interspersed with a few colored. This was the same Beaumont where a week before the police, who arrested a Negro accused of assault upon a white woman, tried and executed him.

While there were some of the officials of Beaumont conscientious and who were against the mob from the first, there were some of the under-police who were not only indifferent but who were actually sympathetic and cooperative with the mob. Other facts show that it was way upon time before the police began to realize the seriousness of the mob. Then those who had winked at the lawless "critters" began to try to build alibis by broad, bold statements against the mob.

Obviously, the county attorney, the sheriff and other reliable officials could not be on the street at the same time they took care of the responsibilities of their offices. But Negro after Negro who escaped Beaumont has said to our reporters here that not only the police were not making any serious effort to stop the mob, but even in many instances at first the soldiers

City Officials Ousted

It was generally believed that the recall vote, by which Mayor Leslie Lowry and five other councilmen were recalled Saturday, had nothing to do with the riot as the charges for which they were voted out had been placed against them earlier.

According to information received here, at least 10 white men were indicted on the charge of rioting, and some seven or eight others were held for the possibility of being charged with house entry, looting and other offenses connected with rioting. Originally, there had been about 800 under arrest, but they were gradually released with some paying fines for vagrancy.

For the most part businesses were opened again Saturday and the shipyards were working. Some of the shipyards were scheduled to work Sunday to make up for the lost time.

Mob Victim Dies

John Johnson, 43, 550 Emmett street, night engineer at the American Ice Company, died June 16, 1943 at Hotel Dieu Hospital of gunshot wounds in the abdomen inflicted by the mob that ran rampant here Tuesday night, June 15. Johnson died ten hours after he was shot.

Justice of the Peace Horace Blade held the inquest.

Johnson is survived by his widow, Mrs. Beulah Johnson; two daughters, Mrs. Earlene Davis, Mary Lou Johnson; two brothers, Robert and Thomas Johnson.

Funeral services were held June 22 at 2:30 p. m. from St. Paul AME church, Rev. T. L. Sanders, officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery. Hebert Undertaking Co. was in charge of arrangements.

Mob Stole Food, Burned Restaurant

Afro-American

Baltimore, Maryland

JUN 26 1943

Eye Witnesses Tell How Hoodlums Battered Unsuspecting Victims

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BEAUMONT, Texas — How the mob struck into the colored neighborhood of Beaumont was related to the AFRO by victims and eye witnesses.

Russell Perrotin, one of Beaumont's most accomplished radio experts, whose shop and valuable equipment made him in demand by both races had everything destroyed by the mob.

Warned by police of impending trouble Mr. Perrotin locked up his shop and went to his home on the outskirts of town. The mob destroyed ten brand new cabinet radios valued at nearly $200 each, loud speaker equipment, and repair equipment which cannot be replaced on account of the war.

Head Crushed

Frank Hadnot, a night watchman, was en route home in the early morning hours and had not heard of the riot. As he entered Gladys Street he was set upon by hoodlums, who crushed his head and broke his jaws. He is not expected to live.

Life's Savings Gone

Preston Bender, a 50-year-old man had worked all his life at small jobs in which he barely eked out a living. By fugality had saved enough to open a little restaurant which his wife operated while he held his job.

Gathered War Profits

When the war came and the population increased with war-workers, his business grew by leaps and bounds. He was able to quit his job and devote his whole time to his business operating 24 hours a day.

A short while ago he put his life savings into improving his lunchroom, making it one of Beaumont's finest establishments.

The mob burned up every table and chair, smashed all his appointments, and divided his food stocks of sugar, canned goods and fresh meats among themselves.

Heard Victims Howl

Mrs. Hattie Ford, along with about 50 other women, was at work at Steadman's Packing Company where food is being canned for army use.

She related how the mob stormed the plant shortly after midnight and demanded any colored people working there.

The manager hid his colored workers on the roof while he permitted members of the mob to search the plant. Satisfied that no colored were present, the mob left.

"We looked over the roof edge," Mrs. Ford declared "and could see the mob waylaying colored men caught outside the plant. The howls of misery as the men were beaten were heartrending. I don't know what they could have possibly been striking them with to have caused such cries of pain."

AFRO Man Sees Damage

John Franks, AFRO pressman, arrived from Baltimore 10:30 Wednesday to visit his parents.

Walking down College Street he noticed windows and doors of all houses broken. Turning left at Natchez Street a similar sight met his eyes and the streets were full of glass, stones, and clubs.

He had no idea that a riot was going on.

Within a half block of Forsythe Street, two women advised him not to go further as whites were in the next block beating up colored people. He went in a doorway of a near-by house and saw cars loaded with white people cruising around to keep colored people off the streets.

A reporter for the Houston Informer drove by in a car and he hitched a ride to the South end where he found his mother and father. The whites did not enter this district because the State troops arrived first.

No Bus Travel

Franks was due to leave Beaumont at 5:30 Wednesday evening. He called the railroad and bus stations and found they were not taking any colored passengers and were not letting any colored passengers alight in Beaumont.

Thursday he called again and was able to get his train to the North.

Franks says he is moving his mother and father to Baltimore as soon as he can find a home for them. Hundreds of other people are leaving Beaumont for other cities. The total may reach a thousand.

Stop Work at Rubber Plant

FORT NECHES, Texas—(ANP)—Curtailment of work was ordered last week at the rubber plant here as one of several precautionary measures to prevent spreading of the race riots at Beaumont to this community.

JUN 5 1943

On the day that company officials decided to stop work until high racial tension had passed, some 400 of the approximately 1,200 colored employed on the project reported for duty. They were sent home at noon with instructions not to return until further notice.

Two Killed, 10 Injured As Race Riot Flares; Troops Patrol Streets

News

Birmingham, Ala.

JUN 7 1943

Curfew Order Invoked And Numerous Arrests Made In Beaumont, Tex.

BEAUMONT, Tex.—(AP)—Sixteen hundred Texas State Guardsmen patrolled this city Thursday in the wake of a riot that resulted in the death of two persons, hospitalization of 10 and the wrecking of 25 houses in a Negro section.

The dead were Ellis Cleveland Brown, who suffered a skull fracture, and John Johnson, 44-year-old Negro who died of gunshot wounds. He said a group of white men fired on him as he was entering a car at the ice plant where he was employed.

State troops were dispatched during the night, after martial law was declared, to patrol Negro sections and guard against any further outbreak of riots which had been growing in intensity since a young mother, wife of a war worker, told police she had been attacked by a Negro. The city was placed under martial law late Wednesday by Acting Gov. A. M. Aikin, Jr., after Aikin had conferred by telephone with Mayor George Gary. Gov. Coke Stevenson is out of the state. A hundred state officers, including Texas Rangers, are aiding the militia.

Guard patrols Friday night made time to study the reports," said Police Chief Ross Dickey.

"We will file charges after we get numerous arrests of persons who

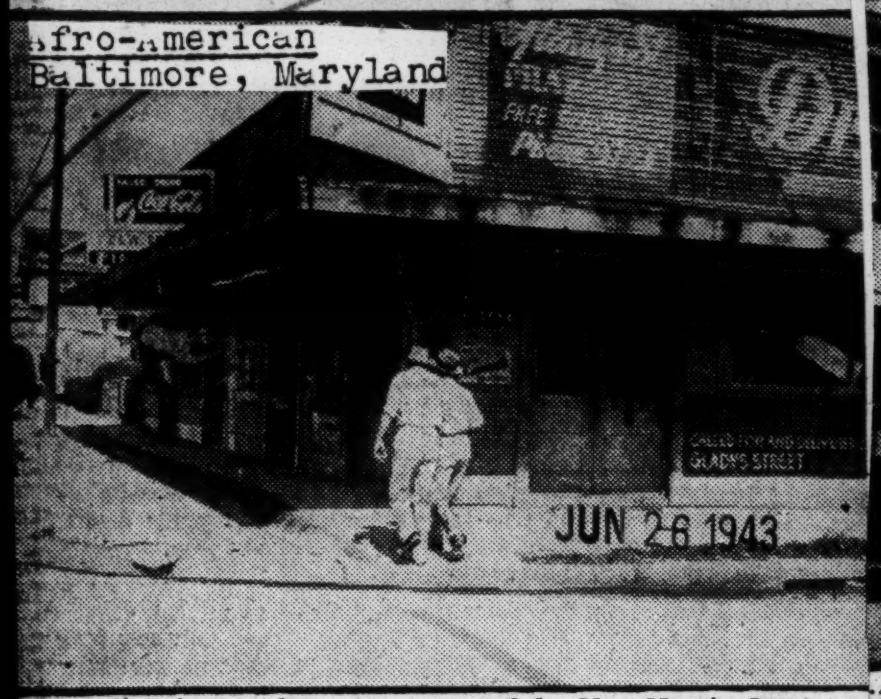
Col. Sidney C. Mason, military police were enforcing the out-of-bounds order.

Mason, announced that the commander, put into effect curfew would be put again Thursday night if the situation warranted.

Traffic from Orange, Port Arthur and Port Neches was reentering the city after having been prohibited during the night.

Military personnel were forbidden by Maj. Gen. Richard Donovan, Eighth Service Command, to enter the city. Mili-

AFRO Cameraman Shows How Mob Wrecked Property in Beaumont, Texas



This was a former drug store operated by Mrs. Maggie Jones, an elderly woman, on Gladys Street. The mob took all of her medicines and perfumes and did $2,500 damage to the fountain and accessories.



Above is the Perrotin Radio Store on Gladys Street, where mobsters destroyed thousands of dollars worth of cabinet radios, sound equipment and irreplaceable repair tools and parts.



Above are scenes from Beaumont, Texas, where hoodlums wrecked the colored neighborhood. The scenes were taken by an AFRO cameraman on Forsythe Street. Every window in the stores are boarded up after being smashed.

Two Dead, Vast Property Loss In Texas Riot

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Army Officer Presides Over Court of Inquiry

BEAUMONT, Texas—(S N S)—Lieutenant Colonel Royal G. Phillips presided over a court of inquiry Thursday investigating the destructive riot which raged for more than 16 hours in this war-boom city.

The riot resulted in the death of two persons and property damage in excess of $20,000.

The rioting started Tuesday night after a white mother reported that she had been assaulted. Martial law was still in force Thursday although many observers believed the trouble had reached an end.

Search was still underway for a colored man in connection with the attack case.

Thousands of workers of the Pennsylvania shipyards walked out following the riot and threatened to stay away from their jobs until the rioting stopped.

At the last compilation, it was estimated that at least 60 or more persons—Negro and white—were injured seriously enough to require hospital treatment, and that 12 of these still were in hospitals.

Colonel J. Phillips, assistant chief of staff of the Texas State Guard and chief of the Bureau of intelligence, Texas Department of Public Safety, said that each of the cases of the more than 125 white men arrested, will be tried on its individual merits.

The hearings will be held in secret with the press barred.

Lieut. Colonel Sidney C. Mason, of Austin, who was placed in charge of the city when martial law was declared late Wednesday by Acting Governor A. M. Aikin Jr., said that a search of both Negroes and whites had uncovered scores of shotguns, pistols, a bolo knife and a sawed-off shotgun.

"A very small percentage came from the Negroes," Colonel Mason said.

Heaviest damage to Negro property centered on Gladys Street, main Negro thoroughfare, where a funeral home, cafe, radio shop, liquor store, drug store and at least 12 dwellings were damaged and pillaged. On Forsythe Street a cafe operated by two Japanese was wrecked by white rioters using axes, hammers and other tools.

In all, from 10 to 15 automobiles driven by Negroes were burned and their Negro occupants attacked.

Unofficial estimates placed damage at more than $20,000.

Disorder which had raged for more than 16 hours finally was halted late Wednesday when martial law was declared and more than 1,600 State Guardsmen threw a tight control over the activities of the city's inhabitants.

While state troopers slept restlessly on the City Hall lawn ready for any eventuality, other detachments patrolled the almost deserted streets all night.

Vote Plot Blamed for Texas Riot

afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BEAUMONT, Texas — Many reasons were advanced by local citizens for the racial outbreak which cost two lives and resulted in the destruction of thousands of dollars in property in the colored neighborhood.

While the age old Dixie howl of rape was the spark (later proved without foundation) which set off the rioting many other reasons were given.

One is the bitter political fight which was set for Saturday in an unprecedented recall election in which the reform group of the city sought to have the administration declared out of office to pave the way for an emergency election.

One of the main issues was the lack of law enforcement and a breakdown in all attempts to curb crime and vice.

Suspect Riot Inspired

People are asking if the riot was artificially inspired by the opposition as a final indictment of the inability of the administration to maintain order.

The outs, however, accuse the incumbents of starting the riot to frighten colored voters from the polls so they could remain in office.

By a peculiar twist, in Beaumont colored citizens take an active part in the primary election, a right accorded in no other Texas city, and sway a great deal of power. Because of this they have colored on the police force and hold good jobs in the Health and other municipal departments.

Regardless of which side of the political fight really instigated the clash both sides are now sorry because what was intended to be a little fray got badly out of line and became more bloody than any one anticipated.

Knew of Impending Flare

Those charging the administration with inspiring the outbreak point to the fact that police officers went through the colored section as early as 9 a.m. warning colored business men to close their shops and go to their residences in the suburbs as trouble was anticipated. The riot did not break until after midnight and police squad cars were in the midst of the fighting without discharging a gun to curb the rioters.

It is also charged that while firemen were busy trying to quench the flares in one building rioters in the same block were pouring gasoline on other buildings without restraint.

City Without Administration

The opposition group profitted most by the riot when the better class of citizens rushed to the polls on Saturday and voted for the present administration. This leaves the city without an administration until an emergency election date is set.

Wives Irked Texas Whites Non-Working

afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BEAUMONT, Texas—The fact that colored laborers, for once in their lives, are making money to permit them to remain at home instead of slaving in domestic service is one of the basic causes of the race riot, the AFRO was told this week.

First Taste of Home Life

With two big war plants, Pennsylvania Shipyard and the Consolidated Steel Company, going full blast and colored workers of Beaumonts earning from $10 to $15 per day,

many have for the first time since the depression have been able to fix up their homes decently and allow their wives to remain home and rear their own families.

Hitherto with the husband and wife working they could earn little more than fifteen dollars a week between them. Wages for domestics seldom were more than four or five dollars a week for seven days, and hours unlimited.

It is the loss of this domestic help which has embittered southern whites.

Whites Do Own Chores

And the situation is more aggravated because the failure to hire girls-of-all work for a pittance has compelled many white women to forego lucrative war jobs themselves, which are denied to colored women. The idea is if the husband and wife can hold down big salaried jobs and hire a domestic at a few dollars to run the home and care for the children, they can show a big profit.

Workers Return to Shipyards After Riots

ORANGE, Tex. — (ANP) — A spokesman for the Consolidattd Steel Corporation, Ltd., shipbuilding division, said late last week that the employment of colored workers at the yards had almost returned to normalcy, following two days in which they were not permitted to work.

He indicated that all colored workers would have returned to their jobs early this week. The construction workers were barred from the yards during the recent wave of racial disturbances in nearby Beaumont.

Mayor Abe Sokolski said he was permitting operation of pool rooms where intoxicants are sold, but would place a ban on liquors and beer sometime this week.

Beaumont Quiet Atlanta, Georgia Under Troop Rule

BEAUMONT, Texas, June 17.—The commander of state troops enforcing martial law in this city warned shipyard workers today to refrain from any action that would revive tension in the race situation which yesterday took two lives and injured scores.

The rioting was precipitated by a young white woman's story that a Negro had attacked her. City Attorney Albert Tantum said the validity of her account was being checked and that a physician's examination had opened the story to question. Constitution

The city moved back to normal activity today, M. W. McMaster, public relations official for the plant, said that over 75 per cent of the yard's employes were on the job today.

Beaumont, Texas, Riot Sends Ten To Hospital

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

Thousands Leave Work Awaiting Return Of Quiet

One white man was reported dead and over a hundred arrested from the riot Wednesday.

BEAUMONT, Texas—(S N S)—Thousands of workers at the Pennsylvania shipyards walked out Wednesday refusing to return to work until quiet was restored. The walk-out followed a night of rioting which sent approximately ten men, colored and white, to hospitals.

Trouble started after a young white mother reported that she had been assaulted. A posse of several hundred men under direction of Ranger Captain Purvis searched nearby woods Wednesday for a Negro suspect.

The streets were being patrolled by defense guards, state police and rangers, officials said.

Mayor George Gary, of Beaumont, was quoted as saying the situation was "pretty rough" and that four blocks of buildings in a colored section had been damaged.

At Orange hundreds of colored workers were turned back at the gates of the Consolidated Steel Corporation, Ltd., shipyard and told to go home and stay there.

Major General Richard Donovan at Dallas ordered Beaumont out of bounds for all Army personnel until further notice.

BIDS WORKERS KEEP PEACE IN BEAUMONT

New York Times

Commander of Texas Troops Warns Shipyard Employes Against More Rioting

New York, N. Y.

HINT OF 'FIFTH COLUMN'

Federal Council of Churches Asks Biddle to Investigate Texas, Florida Disorders

BEAUMONT, Texas, June 17 (AP) Col. Sidney C. Mason, commander of State troops enforcing martial law in this city of 100,000, warned shipyard workers today to refrain from any action that would revive tension in the race situation which yesterday took two lives and injured scores. He addressed the workers at the request of shipyard officials, who said the workers were overheard discussing the possibility of taking 300 men reported to be held for military court inquiry away from authorities.

The fifteen hours of sporadic rioting was precipitated by a young white woman's story that a Negro had raped her. City Attorney Albert Tatum said the validity of her account was being checked.

Other city officials said an investigation was being made on the possibility that "fifth column activities" might have inspired the rioting.

Military Court Convenes

A military court of inquiry, which convened today to hear Negroes and whites suspected of participating in the violence, was closed to the public. Colonel Mason said draft board officials were sitting in on the military inquiry, because "the draft status of some of the persons involved may have changed recently."

The city moved back to normal activity today, with street cars and buses operating on schedule, Negroes going back to their jobs, and most retail establishments again open for business. Last night Beaumont was quiet under close patrol. Defense guards, local law officers, and Texas Rangers made numerous arrests for violation of a curfew order.

The rioting, reaching its height early yesterday when crowds of white men surged into the Negro section, had caused the closing of most stores and cafes, and curtailment of many public services. Work at the Pennsylvania shipyards was virtually suspended for a time. M. W. McMaster, public relations official for the plant, said more than 75 per cent of the yard's employes were on the job today.

Beaumont, Tex.—One white man was killed Wednesday in rioting between mobs of white men and Negroes which started last Tuesday after a Negro had assaulted the young wife of a defense worker.

The white man was identified as Ellis Cleveland Brown, 55. A union card found on him was issued at Leesville La. Chicago Bee

An unconfirmed report said two Negroes in the group that were said to have beaten Brown also were killed.

Chicago, Illinois

Beaumont, Tex.—A big-hatted Texas sheriff, a sub-machine gun slung over his arm, Wednesday quieted a mob of white men demanding information of the whereabouts of a suspected Negro attacker, when he offered to fight them one at a time, and told them to go home or back "to building ships."

Sheriff Bill Richardson dispersed a mob of nearly 100 men who surrounded the county jail demanding that the sheriff tell them where peace officers were searching for a youthful Negro yard worker, accused of attacking a young white mother of three children.

"I'm damned tired of all this," Sheriff Richardson said, as he moved out of the door of the jail and stood before the mob. A sub-machine gun rested on his arm.

Break It Up

"All right boys," he said, "break it up now and go back to building ships like you should be doing."

Most of the men were from the Beaumont shipyards, and had walked away from their jobs when the search for the Negro began Tuesday night, a search which ran into street fighting and rioting in the Negro sections of the town.

Someone in the crowd of men shouted:

"You Negro lover."

Richardson jutted a step forward.

"Let the damned fool that said that step up," he shouted. "In fact, I'll take you all on—one at a time."

"Let me tell you," the sheriff added, "I'm going to keep order and law in this county."

BEAUMONT RACE RIOTS LINKED TO 'AXIS INFLUENCE'

Chicago Tribune

Doubt Rape Story That Touched Off Violence.

Chicago, Illinois

Beaumont, Tex., June 17 [Special].—City officials today suggested that enemy influence may have inspired the Beaumont race riots of the last two days and disclosed that doubt has been cast on the story of a war worker's wife that she was raped by a Negro.

The white woman's report touched off a reign of violence that resulted in the deaths of two men, injury to scores of others, a declaration of martial law here, and damage to the Negro section described as equaling "the Meuse-Argonne section of the first World war."

These new developments came as authorities enforcing martial law called a court of inquiry to investigate the rioting. Sitting in on the inquiry being conducted by a military board of six members were draft board officials who will determine whether there should be any changes in the draft deferments of more than 300 white men under arrest.

Check on Fifth Column.

Chief of Police Ross Dickey confirmed that there have been rumors of fifth column activity here and declared that "we have been checking up on them." With easing of the tension from the past two days of rioting, there was a rapid increase of rumors that the clash had been agitated by enemy agents.

Coinciding with this view, in the minds of some, was the statement of City Attorney Albert Tatum that a physician's examination of the white woman, whose story started the wave of violence, had cast doubt on her claim that she was raped Tuesday by a Negro.

Meantime, an estimate of the destruction in the Negro sector was given by Col. Sidney C. Mason, in command of state troops participating with a total of 2,400 peace officers, the normal life of this city officers, the normal life of this city point, it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the first World war."

Negro Section Wrecked.

"The Negro section was literally stomped into the ground," Col. Mason said. "From a point of view of destructive standpoint, it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the first World war."

Under the watchful eye of guards-men, Texas rangers, and local law officers, the normal life of this city was resumed today after of 100,00 was resumed today after the first undisturbed sleep in two days.

Mayor Abe Sokolski said, included the Bus transportation was resumed, help to keep the streets and other conveniences were ordered closed to prevent damage to property.

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61-1943

Two Inquiry Courts Delve Into Rioting at Beaumont

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 19 (UP).—Two possible cases of arson had been established today as two courts of inquiry continued their investigation into racial rioting Wednesday, in which one white man and one Negro were killed.

Meanwhile, Negroes of this Gulf Coast shipbuilding town contemplated a quiet observance of "Juneteenth"—Emancipation Day for Texas Negroes—as authorities took extra precautions to prevent any recurrence of trouble.

All forms of celebration have been prohibited under martial law, effective since Wednesday night. Except for 1600 state guardsmen patrolling the city, Beaumont appeared normal.

Lt. Col. Royal S. Phillips said two possible arson cases, several assault cases, and numerous cases of carrying concealed weapons had been established. He said, however, that the courts had not established any cases of murder.

Military Probes Race Riot As Peace Returns to Texas

PM
New York, N. Y.

By VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN
Staff Correspondent

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 18.—This town is quiet again, though State Guardsmen still patrol the streets and the 9:30 p.m. curfew remai . A military court of inquiry, including representatives of the local draft board, is looking into the matter of criminal responsibility for Black Tuesday. There is talk that some of the whites who have been so eager to kill Negroes may be given guns and forced to kill Nazis and Japanese.

It comes almost as an anti-climax that the woman whose rape complaint against a Negro had started the riots now finds herself in violent disagreement with a reputable local physician who examined her.

The doctor says there are no signs of rape, nor any bruises on her body. No finger prints have been found on a cup and saucer out of which, the woman says, the Negro drank some of her coffee before the alleged attack.

Trouble Brewing Anyhow

All this is anti-climax, because most people around here agree that "trouble was in the air" and that if a rape complaint hadn't started the thing off, something else would have. Furthermore, it's a rare race riot down here that does not start with rape, real or imagined. And in every case, as in this one, the original offense is very nearly lost sight of in the subsequent tide of violent events.

So far as I can see, the "trouble in the air" down here is the same kind that was in the air in Mobile, Ala., a few weeks ago—the kind that is spreading all over the country. I've talked around town, and I hear the same old arguments:

"The Niggers is lettin' the whites fight while they get good jobs; pretty soon they'll be runnin' the South."

"The Niggers has got to be taught to stay in their place, and by God we're the guys to do it."

Future Is Ominous

The solid citizens of Beaumont, including a large section of the workers, are sincerely sorry the riots happened, and seem to be doing much to prevent repetition. But a lot of people, including some of the law enforcement officers, are not at all sure that the presence of State Guardsmen and Texas Rangers and the local police is going to solve the problem. They can't be kept here forever; and after they leave, what then?

This state was the first to pass the so-called "anti-violence" law, aimed at preventing strikes and curtailing the powers of labor unions. Sen. "Pappy" O'Daniel, who fathered the measure, thought it was the height of patriotism to keep production up by preventing strikes.

Production Losses

I've made a quick survey of some of the war plants around here which have suffered production losses since Tuesday because Negroes and whites have stayed home for varying periods.

Here's a partial list:

Pennsylvania Shipyards: Consolidated Steel Shipyards; Construction work on Nature's Butyn Produce Co. which, when finished, will be the largest artificial rubber plant in the country); Magnolia Refinery (aviation gas); International Derrick and Equipment Co. (bombs).

All these production losses were the result of violence, but not by labor unions. Most of the rioters were shipyard workers, who are unorganized. It looks as though Sen. O'Daniel passed the wrong law.

Texas

ATTACK STORY OF WOMAN FALSE, IS GROWING BELIEF

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BULLETIN! BEAUMONT, Tex., June 20—Martial law was lifted in this city today (Sunday) at 10:30 a.m., as church bells tolled and people wend their way to worship.

By ROY LEELAND HOPKINS
(Courier Correspondent)

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 21—More than 1,000 Negroes I have been reliably informed, have fled this famous "Oil City" in the wake of the "Black Tuesday" riots which resulted in a toll of two deaths, many injured and apalling property damage in the Negro district.

The riots, which flared into white-heat last Tuesday, were precipitated by the story of a white woman, the mother of three children, that she had been attacked by a young Negro shipyard worker.

EXAMINATION SHOWS NO EVIDENCE OF RAPE

That the woman's story, which led to the unprecedented mob violence . . . said to be the worst in the history of the state . . . is unfounded, was given credence when Chief of Police Ross Dickey made the statement that a medical examination showed NO EVIDENCE OF RAPE.

Furthermore, the woman has NOT BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY any of the numerous suspects picked up and held for questioning.

Following the woman's "scare" story, the 14-story court house of Jefferson county was stormed by a mob of angry white men. These men were shown through the building in a futile attempt to locate the alleged rapist.

City law enforcement officers . . . 50 policemen and a few sheriff's deputies . . . displayed unusaul courage in attempting to cope with a situation which rapidly grew out of control. They were led by Police Chief Dickey and Sheriff Bill Richardson, both of whom risked their lives at the hands of the mob.

STATE OF MARTIAL LAW PUT INTO EFFECT

Wednesday, martial law was invoked, following a "night of terror" in which roving bands of whites, which are said to have reached a total of 10,000 men and boys, roamed the Negro district, beating, burning, destroying!

Not their province was it to check on the womans story. Even though a physician said there was no sign of rape, nor any bruises on the woman's body, rioting had started. Even though no fingerprints have been found on the cup and saucer out of which the woman said her assailant drank some coffee before the alleged attack, nothing could halt the fury of the mob.

So, when Acting Governor A. M. Aiken, Jr. proclaimed martial law Wednesday evening, he followed his action by sending in state militiamen to the tune of 1,300 men. These were augmented by Texas Rangers.

Most of the militia were stationed in the colored section of the town, with orders to admit no white persons.

BUSINESS SECTION REDUCED TO ASHES

The score of the rioting throughout "Black Tuesday" and "Bloody Wednesday" disclosed more than a whole block of Negro business houses reduced to ash and rubble.

At least 18 colored homes burned and their occupants beaten. Chief of Fire Department Steve O'Connor said the department had answered 16 calls to the Negro community.

[illegible] of the city's business firms, including department stores, had decided to close down. No Negroes could be found in the downtown section Wednesday, many of them who had reported for work being returned to their homes by their employers.

One white man, Ellis Cleveland Brown, was dead . . . one prominent Negro, John Johnson, was dead . . . 126 white men had been arrested . . . 50 Negroes had received hospital treatment and many others had been severely beaten by the mobs which ranged the city.

Throughout Gladys and Forsythe streets, where all business places are owned and operated by Negroes, the mob went violently about tearing down, breaking out windows and setting fire to the places.

One prominent funeral home, the Willard Funeral Home, was burned to the ground while another funeral establishment was also destroyed.

Diamond rings and other valuables were taken from the hands of women.

Major General Richard S. Donovan, commanding general of this area, declared the city of Beaumont "out of bounds" for all military personnel.

The Greyhound Bus Lines refused to sell tickets to Negro civilians. City buses operated through the Negro district at their own risk.

CAFE OWNED BY JAPANESE COMPLETELY DESTROYED

Governor Coke Stevenson, in Houston when the riot broke out, said:—"Every man needed to control the situation will be secured."

Of unusual and significant interest is the manner in which the rioters tore up a cafe, owned and operated by an American-Japanese in the Negro section.

With the use of axes and hammers, the cafe was completely demolished.

Over 10 automobiles, owned and driven by Negro residents who were caught away from their homes at the start of the trouble, were taken by the mob and burned. The Negroes were beaten unmercifully.

General Arthur Knickerbocker of Austin said over 300 Texas Rangers and 600 other members of the Texas State Guard are stationed throughout the mob-torn city. One eyewitness of the Gladys street debacle said:

NO "JUNE TENTH CELEBRATION" HERE

"The men entered one home as if they were crazy. They tore up the furniture, hurled large pieces out of windows and as soon as the occupants would run out, men who composed the 'second team' would take after them and beat them."

All "Juneteenth" celebrations (a state holiday among Negroes widely celebrated) have been cancelled and Negroes have been told to stay to themselves. Even though the city is now under martial law, defiant whites are continuing to make threats, indicating that as soon as possible, they will take up where they left off Wednesday.

Men of the mob who have been arrested have been taken to the Fair Grounds. These include those men on whose persons guns have been found when searched.

A military court has been set up for the trial of the 175 white men and each case will be tried individually and separately in strictest secrecy. No newspapersmen will be allowed, 'tis said. This statement came from Lieut. Col. Sidney C. Mason of Austin, who was placed in charge of the city's safety.

"I'm damn tired of all this," he shouted. Break up and go back to building ships like you should

Richardson stepped out of the Sheriff Wednesday morning, when mob once again surrounded the county jail . . . 100 strong . . . gun crooked in his arm.

TEAR GAS USED TO DISPERSE MOB

...be doing."

Someone jeered.

"Let the damned fool that said that step up here," Richardson challenged. "Fact is, I'll take you all on—one at a time. And let me tell you, I'm going to keep law and order in this county."

The crowd broke, but later reformed and moved toward the Negro district. This time they were met by Texas Rangers. Ordered to disperse, they stood their ground . . . so the Rangers fired tear gas into their ranks, scattering them. That broke up the rioting.

At press time, the mob is reported as being quiet. All business houses, theatres, liquor stores and even cold-drink stands were closed. No public meetings are being held. The city is completely in a dim-out between 9:30 p. m. and 5 a. m.

SOLID CITIZENS OF BEAUMONT SORRY!

Solid citizens of Beaumont, including a large section of the workers, are sincerely sorry the riots happened and seem to be doing much to prevent repetition.

These citizens point to the fine relationship existing between the races for years. They are perturbed because many restaurants have closed for lack of colored help. Laundry services were disrupted. About two-thirds of the city's mail service was halted, since many postmen are colored. Postmaster Ogden Johnson said he was making a report to Washington and that inspectors might be sent there.

And that is Beaumont, Texas... it's Black Tuesday and Bloody Wednesday!

HOUTON COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT

HOUSTON, Texas—The Houston Council of Interracial Good Will issued a statement last week saying there is no plan for a riot here on June 19, and urging colored citizens to celebrate their traditional Juneteenth Day.

The law is prepared to deal with all thoughtless hoodlums, white or colored, the statement said, who provoke trouble. The statement was signed by Mayor pro-tem Goel Berry, A. B. Simpson, president of the Houston Chamber of Commerce; L. H. Spivey, president of the Negro Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. James S. Crate, chairman of the Houston Interracial Commission; Percy F. Heard, chief of police; R[illegible] A. Lucas, president of the local NAACP.

At press time, all is quiet in Houston and there are no signs of any disturbances.

The Roll of Shame . . . Recent Events Leading to Rioting

May 22—Ten colored officers ejected from Camp Forrest (Tenn.) post theatre by 50 armed white M.Ps. . . . Lieut. and Mrs. Wall jailed and beaten by Columbus (Ga.) police.

June Riot at Mobile, Ala., over upgrading of Negro skilled workers at shipyard. Brigadier General Davis investigates trouble at Camp Stewart, Georgia.

June 12—Twenty-five thousand workers strike at Packard Motor plant over upgrading of three Negro workers. . . . Negroes strike at St. Louis Ordnance plant over white foremen.

June 19—Clash at Camp Stewart, Ga., between colored troops and white M.Ps. . . . Fifteen soldiers jailed, two shot in clash between colored soldiers and white policemen at Collins, Miss. . . . Zoot-suiters and Navy men riot on Pacific Coast.

Beaumont Negro Tells How CIO Is Stymying Dies Race Incitement

New York, N. Y. The Daily Worker

JUL 10 1943

By Eugene Gordon

Martin Dies, Texan misrepresentative in Congress, is all hot with eagernes, it is said, to "investigate" the recent Detroit outbreaks against Negroes. Martin Dies is from Beaumont.

Dick Campbell, who directed Langston Hughes' dramatic spectacle, "F[illegible]hi[illegible]vel Right," at the Madison Square Garden Negro Freedom Rally—and who is putting on the same drama tomorow at the Golden Gate, uptown—was born in Beaumont. He grew up there.

Mr. Campbell yesterday gave the Daily Worker some first-hand facts about Martin Dies' Congressional District and his—Campbell's—home town. Summarized, these facts are:

1. The plot to rob and murder the Negro citizens of Beaumont was hatched four days early. It was supposed to break on June 19, traditional emancipation day for the Negro people of that area. Why?

"Because," said Mr. Campbell, "they could frighten, injure and kill more Negroes on that day, thus keeping them from the polls, where a city election was taking place."

2. The Negro people of Beaumont for years, under the leadership of T. T. Pollard, principal of the Negro high school, had paid their poll taxes regularly, thus qualifying themselves to vote in local elections.

"The Negroes had become a threat—or, at any rate, the reactionary whites thought they had become a threat—to the anti-Negro and anti-war forces of the town. The lynching bee was concocted to 'put them in their place.'"

DISPROVE "RAPE" CHARGE

It will be recalled, Mr. Campbell said, that the charge of "rape" brought by the woman was later disproved by both the police and a physician.

3. Letters from Beaumont friends to Mr. Campbell quoted Negro people down there as saying (and very happy about it) that they have never before known white people to act in the genuinely friendly way toward the Negro as CIO members are acting.

Mr. Campbell said, on this point:

"There are big oil refineries and shipyards in Beaumont. These industries have always hired Negro as well as white men. But Negro and white workers have not always been unionized. Now they are unionized, and the CIO has done the job.

"The CIO has done such a good job, as a matter of fact, that the local white leaders of the town tried to blame the union white workers for the mob violence. According to letters from Beaumont, these leaders have been trying to convince the world that the lynchers were 'out-of-towners' who belonged to the CIO. Of course everybody knows that's a lie."

4. The progressiveness and aggressiveness of the Negro people of Beaumont caused them to be hated by the town's backward white population.

Says Mr. Campbell:

"The mob got its revenge last month. One of the largest and best equipped drugstores in the state was owned by a Sol White, a Negro. Joe Willard, another Negro, owned one of the best [illegible] parlors in the state. The mob completely destroyed both."

Martin Dies, resident of Beaumont, says he wants to investigate the "subversive" elements which caused the Detroit outbreaks. He **hasn't said a word**, Mr. Campbell recalled, about investigating the **subversive elements which made The Negro section of Beaumont, according to an eyewitness, look as if a Nazi blitzkrieg had struck it.**

Tomorrow afternoon's presentation of "For This We Fight" will be a part of the "Ounce of Prevention" rally sponsored by the Negro Labor Victory Committee and the People's Committee at the Golden Gate, 142nd St. and Lenox Ave. The rally is scheduled for 3 o'clock.

Dick Campbell, an orphan, worked in Texas rice fields, oil plants, lumber mills and shipbuilding yards. The Negro population of Beaumont at that time was about one-third the total. The Negro section was never able to get civic improvements. The pavement ended where the jim-crow section began, no matter how beautiful the Negro homes. And some of them were fair rivals of the most sumptuous white homes.

He arrived at Paul Quinn College, Waco, a week after a mob had searched the campus for "a light-skinned Negro with a gold tooth in front." They found such a man and burned him in the city square.

"It happened that I was light-skinned and had a gold tooth in front. If I'd arrived a week earlier! . . ."

Mr. Campbell declares he has learned that the Negro people and the white people must win this anti-fascist war together—on the domestic front and on the military front.

JUL 10 1943

Woman Dragged Sick Mate to Safety from Rioters

Baltimore, Maryland Afro-American

Mother of Washingtonian Tells AFRO of Night of Terror When Home Was Sacked

BEAUMONT, Tex.—Some idea of the ferocity of the mob which struck the colored section of this quiet little town last Tuesday night was given to the AFRO by some of the victims.

Mrs. Eva Burge Bagney, frail little woman in her fifties, whose one neat little home was one of the freshly painted residences on Gladys Street, told how she and her sick husband spent the night under the back porch of their home while marauders ransacked the drug store on the corner, and burned her belongings.

"My husband had been sick for a number of months," she said, "and he was sleeping on the day bed in the front room when sud-denly a brick crashed through my parlor window."

Women in the Mob

"This is the first knowledge I had of impending danger. I rushed out on my porch to see what the trouble was, and coming down the street like a herd of stampeding cattle I saw the mob coming, armed with guns, clubs and torches.

"There were a number of women in the crowd and they were leading the mob, whose armed with guns, clubs and torches.

"They were swarming around the drug store on the corner, smashing windows and carrying merchandise when I rushed back into the house.

Too Weak to Walk

"My husband was too weak to walk, but I actually dragged him to the back door. I knew they would kill us if they found us in the house.

"I can't make it,' my husband pleaded, begging me to save myself, but I managed to drag him out the back door and under the porch. There we lay very quietly as I heard them crash the front door.

"I could hear the voices of the women above me. 'Just think,' said one, 'these n——rs even have a frigidaire. That's more than I have.'

Burned Furniture

"They turned the frigidaire over and smashed the radio. Then they began dragging my new furniture out and set it on fire.

"Only a miracle kept them from setting the house on fire as they did buildings all around me. We did buildings all around me. We began burned alive. We been until morning. My been bed-ridden have not slept a wink not."

Mrs. Bagney is a native of Beaumont and has a daughter, Mrs. Savannah of 1881 Savannah Place, Southeast, Washington, whose husband is an employee in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Riots in Texas; Homes Burned

Washington, D. C.
Washington Tribune

A dozen men, white and colored, were sent to hospitals, and thousands of defense workers refused to go to work as rioting broke loose in Beaumont, Texas, as an aftermath to a complaint by a white woman that a Negro had attacked her.

A posse of several hundred men searched nearby woods for the suspect, while a mob stormed the county jail, demanding to know of the sheriff the vicinity in which the posse were searching.

The sheriff, with a sub-machine gun, held the men at bay, refusing to divulge any information as to where the search was in progress.

JUN 19 1943

Four blocks in the Negro neighborhood were damaged by fire and hurling stones, and a man, enroute to Houston to be inducted, was beaten at the bus station, suffering severe wounds and loss of blood.

Beaumont was declared out of bounds by Maj. Gen. Richard Donovan at Dallas, and defense guards, State police, rangers and local officials patrolled the streets to preserve order.

Cafes, hotel dining rooms and laundries were closed down as two jail guards on duty, both being held at bay by the four men. Police said the men left no clues.

JUN 19 1943

Harrison's body was "discovered" in a ditch about 5 a.m. after "an intensive search" by police and highway patrolmen.

Harrison had been convicted in 1940. The conviction was affirmed by the Supreme Court, and then, on a rehearing, was reversed on the ground that a confession was not properly admissable as evidence.

The indictment against Harrison then was nolle prossed by Circuit Court and Harrison was released. A new indictment was returned by the Jackson County grand jury a few weeks ago, and Harrison was being held in jail awaiting a third trial.

of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties which organization immediately wired

would be held. The remains were later taken to the undertaker and it was then that the family calling upon them to take unequivocal, prompt and firm action to bring to justice all persons in any way responsible for this lynching.

JUN 19 1943

The wires described the lynching as "a shocking climax of sporadic mob violence against Negroes, Mexican-Americans and other minorities in recent weeks."

Anti-Negro Terror Flares In Dies' Town

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

By John Meldon

Axis engineered attacks against war unity in this country reached a new high mark yesterday when a southern war industry center, Beaumont, Texas, was virtually paralyzed after a night of terror against the Negro population.

JUN 17 1943

Beaumont, Texas is Martin Dies' bailiwick.

Goebbels must be chuckling with glee in Berlin, and it's a sure bet that the news will be beamed from Naziland to our South American neighbors, probably before this story appears in print.

The Beaumont "rioting," arising over a typical southern alleged "rape" of a white woman spread throughout the night to the big Negro residential section, resulting in shootings, beatings and buildings afire by incendiary mobsters. Local shipyards ceased desperately needed war production when whole shifts of Negroes failed to show up at their jobs, fearful of lynch-mad mobs. Hospitals were described in United Press dispatches as "overflowing" with both white and Negro injured. Local authorities were unable to report the extent of fatalities.

WORST OF SERIES

The Beaumont flare-up is, to date, the worst of a whole series of similar incidents in various industrial centers of the nation which have dealt a staggering body blow to national unity on the eve of momentous military action against the Axis in Europe. All follow a pattern of enemy counteroffensive within our own gates at the precise moment the Axis expects the heaviest Allied blows to be delivered on the European battlefronts.

JUN 17 1943

Within recent weeks, anti-Negro violence has occurred in Mobile, Alabama, seriously hampering shipyard and war industry production in that city; in the Packard auto plants on Detroit; in Los Angeles, and to a smaller extent, in Brooklyn, where a small war plant was crippled by a walkout of employes over the transfer of a Negro elevator operator to a production job. Only this week, the Hearst press of Detroit tried to stir up a race war in Inkster, Michigan, a few miles outside the great Detroit war center. Quick action by alert citizenry prevented a "riot" from taking place.

AN UNDERSTATEMENT

The effect of the Axis-instigated "rioting" in Beaumont should be an object lesson to the whole American people. How seriously it had crippled that war city can be seen from a statement issued last night by Beaumont, Chief of Police Ross Dickey, who to reporters "This city is in one hell of a shape."

"One hell of a shape" is an understatement. Reports coming out of Beaumont indicated last night that whole sections of the Negro residential area had been set afire by roaming mobs, with at least sixteen fires raging at one time. Meanwhile, in white sections of the city, laundries, restaurants and other business establishment closed down when Negro employes failed to appear. State highway patrolmen had to be served as armed escorts to take hundreds of Negro workers from local shipyards to their homes. Hospitals were taxed to capacity with wounded, and perhaps dying victims of the fascist-like mob depredations.

It was only after the most serious damage had been done to this important war city that Texas Rangers and state police were called in from neighboring areas. Nearly one hundred white mobsters were arrested, but the situation, as reported by the United Press last night remained tense.

Goebbels score board is mounting the New York "mugging" drive against Harlem; the Los Angeles "zoot suit" attacks against Negroes and Mexicans: Mobile, Detroit and now Beaumont.

The Axis has let loose its real fifth column saboteurs on our shores, and if we intend to win this war we've got to smash them now.

JUN 17 1943

13 Held, 40 Freed

Courier-Journal

In Texas Probe Of Race Riots

Louisville, Ky.

Beaumont, Texas, June 18 (AP)—A military court of inquiry to fix responsibility for race riots dismissed nearly forty of the more than 200 prisoners last night, and early today the court was still in session.

Thirteen were held, after questioning, for city, county and federal authorities.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, commanding State troops, sternly warned shipyard workers not to take any rash action.

Two men were fatally injured and scores were hurt in rioting touched off Tuesday when a white woman reported she had been raped by a Negro.

Fifth Column Activity Hinted In Texas Riots

Courier-Journal

Beaumont Officials Doubt Story of Rape

Louisville, Ky.

Beaumont, Texas, June 17 (AP)—City officials suggested today that enemy influence may have inspired race riots of the last two days which resulted in death of two men, injury to scores and extensive property damage in the Negro section.

JUN 18 1943

Chief of Police Ross Dickey said "there have been rumors of Fifth Column activity here and we have been checking up on them."

City Attorney Albert Tatum said a physician's examination of a white woman cast doubt on her story that she had been raped by a Negro while her husband was at work at a war plant.

Military Hearing Called.

Col. Sidney C. Mason, in command of state troops enforcing martial law, called for a military hearing. Colonel Mason said the Negro section of Beaumont was "literally stomped into the ground" during the outbreaks.

"From a destructive standpoint, it equals the Meuse-Argonne sector of the first World War," he added.

Colonel Mason's comment on the damage was made as this southeast Texas city of more than 100,000 persons awoke today under the watchful eye of 2,400 peace enforcement personnel under his command.

Rioting Is Subdued.

The city had its first undisturbed sleep in two days after rioting which started late Tuesday night had taken the lives of one white man and one Negro.

Bus transportation resumed today and most retail establishments were again open for business.

Some establishments had closed because of lack of help after Negroes were ordered off the streets. Others closed to keep crowds from congregating.

Defense guardsmen, Texas Rangers and local law officers had the city under guard during the night. Numerous arrests were made for violation of the curfew order barring from the streets all persons not having essential business through the night hours.

20 Homes Are Burned.

The destruction in the Negro section, Colonel Mason explained, included the burning of up to 20 Negro houses and establishments, and the wrecking of a beer parlor, in which windows were shattered and furniture broken.

The first of the incidents leading up to the disturbances occurred about a week ago. A white girl telephone operator reported to police that a Negro, later fatally shot by officers, attacked her near a warehouse.

In the second case a housewife, mother of three children, told police a Negro yardworker attacked her after she had hired him to work at her home. It was upon her story that doubt was cast today.

JUN 18 1943

Crowds of white men surged into the Negro section. The riots starting early Wednesday morning were followed by a declaration of martial law last night.

Military Probe in Beaumont Opened

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BEAUMONT, Texas, June 17.—War production in this city's shipyards was still halted today after an Axis blitz, not from the air, but from within.

JUN 18 1943

Shipyards remained closed and the city remained under martial law following more than 24 hours of mob attacks against the Negro population, resulting in at least two known deaths, 60 injured and huge sections of the Negro residential area gutted by flames. Meanwhile whole sections of the business district remained closed when Negro employes, fearful of Wednesday's lynch mob, failed to report to work.

Unionists in Beaumont today are insistent that both the state and

DETROIT—In the first trials growing out of the city's bloodiest

JUN 16 1943

Two of the accused men arrested by local police were acquitted. Those convicted of rioting, looting and assault were:

Lewis Thorpe, 9247 Cardona; Eugene Washington, 12705 Dexter; John Gross,

21 Get 90 Days In Riot Trials

Baltimore, Maryland

...ron; Carl Rayford, 8934 Cameron; William Barett, 1336 Holobrook; James Daniels, 960 King; Joseph Purofoy, 297 Owens; Ernest McKee, 8410 Cameron; Ozzie Carter, 8196 Cameron; Ralph Crawford, 9610 Cardonoa; George Cleveland, 446 Marston; Tommy Towsen, 8590 Greely; Cleaford Winfred, 1125 Euclid; Freeman Brown, 1551 Euclid, and Thomas Bradly, 3380 Hudson.

Texas Rioters Fined In Court

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

BEAUMONT, Texas, July 1 — (ANP)—Fines ranging from $25 to $100 were imposed upon white men turned over by the Texas State guard's court of inquiry into the recent race riots were announced this week by city officials. Four of the defendants drew fines of $100, the others $25 penalties. One of the men fined will also face charges of arson at a later trial, ...authorities. The fines ...meted out resulted from charges of burglary, concealing stolen property and loitering.

JUL 3 1943

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Race Riot Investigated; 28 Men Held In Custody

BEAUMONT, Tex. —(AP)— Col. Sidney C. Mason, commander of state troops enforcing martial law after race riots took two lives and caused considerable property damage, said Saturday the military court had completed its inquiry and had placed 28 men in custody of city and county officials. He said charges probably would be filed against them.

Lt. Col. Royal G. Phillips, of the state adjutant general's office, said that several of the prisoners were held for assault to murder charges and that there were some possible arson cases.

JUN 26 1943

Soldier Killed At Fort Bliss

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

EL PASO, Tex.—Pvt. Otis Gardner, of the 394th Artillery, was shot to death at Fort Bliss last week in racial clashes developing from false rumors of riotings in downtown El Paso.

JUN 26 1943

Army authorities, in a preliminary statement, declared that Pvt. Gardner was slain by a white sentry, but declined to give any further details of the shooting. At the same time, it was announced that Pvt. Paul V. Brown, white, 367th searchlight battalion, was shot and critically wounded by a colored soldier.

The Lesson of Beaumont, Texas

The attack upon the Beaumont, Texas, colored section by white mobs last week was incited by the rumor that a colored man raped a white woman.

Subsequently, no colored attacker has been found and physicians' reports show that no woman was raped.

JUN 26 1943

The cause of the attack upon hundreds of innocent colored people is not important. Some Southern communities need no incentive to mob action. All they want is an excuse.

In this case, a funeral parlor, the town's best building, was cleaned out, a colored liquor store was looted, a colored cafe and autos of colored people were burned, scores of persons were beaten and sent to the hospitals.

In a situation like this, in the South, it is idle to appeal either to State or Federal authorities for assistance. It usually comes too late.

JUN 26 1943

Colored communities must be prepared to protect themselves. Frederick Douglass said that the slave that resisted vigorously was almost never whipped.

If mobsters attacking colored homes get a hot reception once, they will not repeat that visit.

P.S. For three days Beaumont shipbuilding yards were virtually at a standstill.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Naziism At Home

The City of Beaumont, Tex., was the scene last week of another eruption of one of the ugliest aspects of American life. In an attempt to lynch a Negro accused of rape, a mob invaded the Negro district, burned homes, wrecked and looted shops. Two men were killed. State militia were compelled to impose martial law on the community.

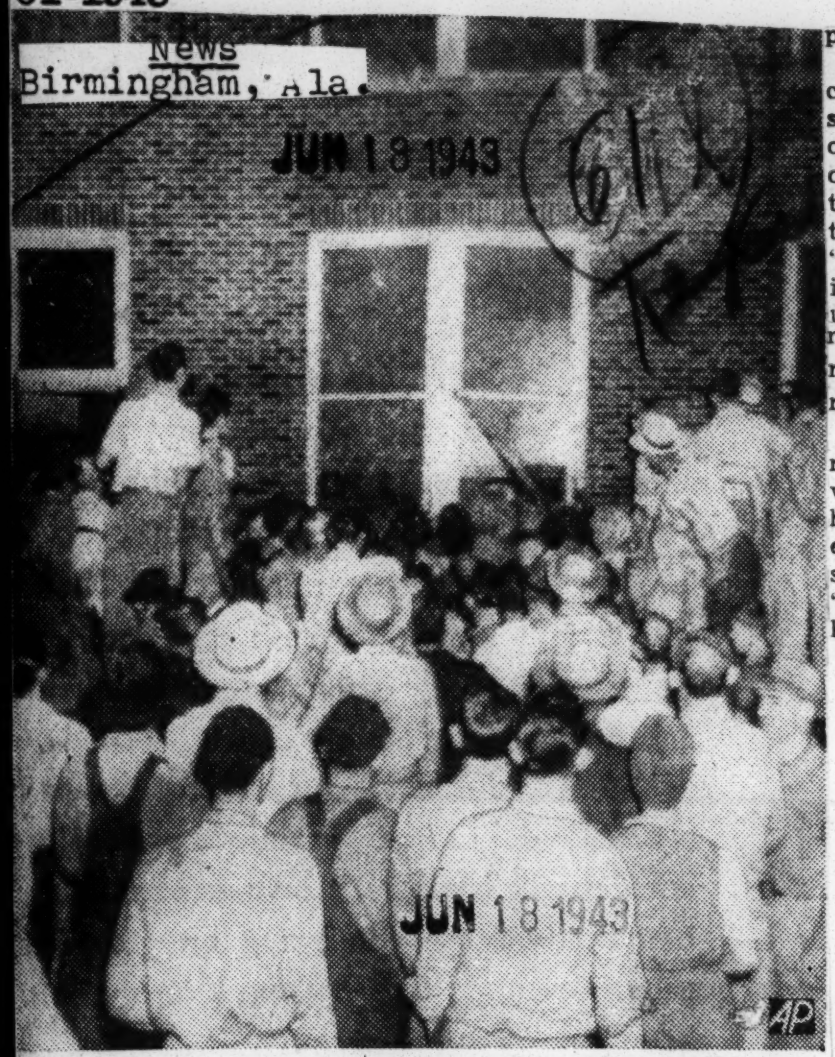
JUN 28 1943

There is a terrible reminder in this occurrence that the bestial spirit which became dominant in Germany is also latent in the United States. Naziism is confined to no nationality. It is an attitude. It finds expression in the denial of democratic principles, in the overriding of minority rights, in the absurd assertion of racial superiority. It is even more menacing to our institutions when it manifests itself here at home than when it challenges us from overseas.

JUN 28 1943

What happened in Beaumont is not peculiarly Beaumont's shame. It is a shame in which all America shares. We shall succeed in conquering naziism not simply by military triumphs, but by cleansing its poison from our own national blood stream.

News
Birmingham, Ala.
JUN 18 1943



RIOTERS STORM JAIL—Two persons were killed, 10 hospitalized, and more than a score of homes wrecked in the Negro section of Beaumont, Tex., when mobs jibed after a young mother, wife of a war worker, told police she had been criminally attacked by a Negro. Here a mob tears screens from windows of the Beaumont City Jail in an attempt to take a suspect. The city was placed under martial law.

BEAUMONT DAILY BLAMES WHITES FOR RACE VIOLENCE

JUN 27 1943

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 24.—A stinging editorial in the Beaumont Enterprise of Thursday deplored and condemned the race riots that resulted in two deaths, the serious injury of several others both black and white, and widespread property damage. The editorial termed the riots "shameful and shocking."

The fact that a Negro was accused of committing a crime was no justification for a wanton attack upon the entire city's Negro population, stated the paper. (It was later disclosed by city medical authorities an examination "cast d ubt" that the white woman was criminally attacked.) "Most of the property belonged to white people, but roving bands bent on mischief did not think about that," said the paper.

"There is something else they did not think about," continued the editorial. "By committing lawless acts and halting work in vital war industries they played right into the hands of the enemy. Some of the men who said they had to quit work 'to protect their homes' may have been the unconscious tools of enemy agents."

Even if this were not true, declared the Enterprise, "nothing could better please Hitler than to know that there is disunity among groups of the American people."

"The law enforcement agencies of the country, the city and state, supplemented by d organizations, are quite c of dealing with infractions of the law, no matter how serious they may be," insisted the daily. "If a race war should start here, it would only make a bad situation worse and accomplish nothing, except to give Beaumont a black eye throughout the nation."

Pointing out that there was no excuse for any man to stop work and join a mob to defend his home, the editorial asserted that what the community sorely needed was protection "from mob hysteria and race hatred."

JUN 27 1943

An Open Letter

Home to Texas Informer

BEAUMONT—

To the Better Element of White Citizens:

"There was not a Beaumont person in that mob." This statement has been in the air and on the lips of scores of the better class of local white people since Tuesday night, June 15. We believe that all of them are sincere when they make such statements, but how can you be so positive of the composition of the mob when you did not see the mob?

It certainly is not consoling to Negroes to hear such statements coming from the better class of white citizens. Many Negroes had left their homes and were lying in the grass and hedges, hiding from those vandals; others were in their houses with the lights out, watching the plundering and pillaging of these marauders. They could see clearly by the moonlight and street lights and recognized many of the men by features, names and uniform and they know them to be citizens of Beaumont of long standing. Others knew some of those of teen-age—they had, had the privilege of serving them in places where these Negroes were employed.

JUN 26 1943

Negroes are not accusing the better element of white people as taking an active or passive part directly or indirectly in this crime. This information has come from scores of responsible Negroes of all ranks, many of them are your employees in whom you confide. Negroes can and do appreciate your sympathy but cannot agree with you when you eliminate the entire Beaumont citizenry as non-mob mem-

Mrs. Aaron Jefferson.

Sheriff, Rangers End Texas Rioting

New York, N. Y.
World-Telegram

JUN 16 1943

By

BEAUMONT Tex., June 16.—A tough Texas sheriff and a contingent of Texas Rangers today broke up two mobs bent upon exacting further vengeance from the Negro population here because a Negro was alleged to have attacked a white woman.

One white man was killed in today's rioting.

Shortly after Sheriff Bill Richardson, singlehanded, dispersed a mob of 100 men around the 14-story courthouse, it reformed, augmented in numbers, in the main street of the Negro section, where groups of white men had roamed all night beating Negroes, breaking windows and setting fires.

5 Seriously Hurt.

The Rangers ordered the mob to disperse. It didn't, and the Rangers flung tear gas bombs. The crowd scattered promptly.

In addition to the white man known to have been killed, five were seriously injured. An unknown number of Negroes were injured and unconfirmed reports said two had been killed. The dead white man was identified as Ellis Cleveland Brown, 55, shipyard worker. His skull was fractured.

His death aggravated the tension which has hung over this Gulf coast shipbuilding center for more than 14 hours.

As the tension increased, acting Mayor George Gary ordered cancellation of all "Juneteenth" celebrations JUN 16 1943 Saturday. "Juneteenth" is the traditional annual holiday of the Negroes in the South in celebration of their liberation from slavery.

Sheriff Defiant.

Earlier a mob of approximately 100 men had been dispersed by big-hatted Sheriff Richardson, who, with a submachine gun slung over his arm, told them to get out of the courthouse and "go on back to building your ships."

"I am damned tired of all this," Sheriff Richardson shouted, stepping out of the courthouse which also houses the county JUN 16 1943 "You boys break up now and go back to building ships like you should be doing."

Some one on the fringe of the crowd shouted an insult. Sheriff Richardson moved a step forward.

"Let the damned fool that said that step up," he shouted. "In fact, I will take you all on—one at a time."

"Let me tell you," the sheriff added, "I am going to keep order and law in this county."

Someone else shouted that Sheriff Richardson's stand was just politics.

The sheriff replied that the mob already had hindered the capture of the Negro by last night's fighting, which Richardson said gave the Negro a 15-hour start.

"You fellows," he said, "took up all the time of the peace officers needed to keep order."

Sheriff's deputies, Texas Rangers, and a company of the Texas State Guard arrested 75 white men and seemed by noon to have the situation under control. The city jail, where some of the white men were held, was heavily guarded against the chance of an attempt to rescue them.

Sheriff Richardson had permitted a committee of five men to go through his jail to satisfy itself that the suspected Negro was not in custody. He took direct action when the mob still didn't disperse.

Negro shipyard workers reported as usual to their jobs this morning, but police escorted them back to their homes.

(Governor Coke Stevenson, in Houston, instructed Homer Garrison, chief of the Department of Public Safety, to get every man into Beaumont needed to control the situation.

(In Dallas Maj. Gen. Richard S. Donovan, commanding the Eighth Service Command, declared Beaumont out of bounds to all military personnel.)

Police and sheriff's deputies were searching the surrounding country and watching highways and roads leading out of Beaumont for the Negro.

Fire Chief Steve O'Conor said his men had answered 16 alarms in the Negro section since midnight. O'Conor said there was extensive property damage along the main Negro thoroughfare, and reported that a large two-story Negro funeral home had been badly damaged and looted. A Negro liquor store also had been cleaned out, he said.

Mr. O'Conor also said that heavy damage had been reported along another street in the Negro section, and that a Negro restaurant had been gutted by fire. He said he had been told that all windows in houses for two blocks on one side of the street were broken out.

Meanwhile, Negroes either stayed off the streets or traveled with police protection. Laundries and restaurants, dependent on Negro help, remained closed.

No Deaths Reported.

No deaths were reported from hospitals where the injured, both white and Negro, had been taken. One hospital was filled with injured Negroes, one of whom was in a critical condition.

The most seriously wounded white man was Milton Randall, with shotgun pellets in his back. Another, Gerald Williams, had a

JUN 16 1943

1 Killed and 11 Injured In Race Riot In Texas

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky. From Wire Dispatches.

JUN 16 1943

Beaumont, Texas, June 16.—Clashes between Negroes and whites touched off by the rape of a young mother, today took one life, hospitalized eleven persons, virtually halted work at a shipyard and disrupted numerous

businesses.

Texas Rangers arrested seventy-five white men. The Rangers, Texas defense guards, State police and local officials patroled the city as the situation became less tense after fifteen hours of sporadic rioting.

The young white woman, mother of three children, told police a Negro entered her home and raped her yesterday while hr husband was working in a war plant.

Carpenter Killed.

Ellis Cleveland Brown, about 55, a white carpenter on a war project, died of a skull fracture. A bus driver said he saw three Negroes beat Brown, but they fled and were not identified. Brown's draft card listed his home as Hornsbeck, La.

A large mob which gather at the city jail about midnight was faced by the woman attack victim, who told them she had inspected the jail and the attacker was not there.

Sheriff Bill Richardson stepped out of the door and faced the crowd. He carried a submachine gun.

Negroes Houses Burned.

"I'm damned tired of all this," he shouted. "You boys break up now and go back to building ships like you should be doing."

Some one in the crowd shouted back an insult.

"Let the damned fool that said that step up," Richardson replied. "Fact is, I'll take you all on—one at a time. And let me tell you, I'm going to keep order and law in this county."

The crowd dispersed.

Violence by roving bands then started and lasted through the early morning hours. A dozen Negro houses and one Negro's automobile were burned. Several Negroes were pulled from their cars and beaten.

Negroes employed at the Pennsylvania Shipyards were escorted home by defense guards when they left the night shift at 7 a.m., but one of them was beaten just outside the gates.

White Workers Quit.

M. W. McMasters, public relations head of the shipyards, said white employes quit work and walked out in small groups, leaving only a skeleton force. He said they made no statement and held no demonstration.

Many restaurants closed for lack of Negro help. Laundry service was disrupted. About two-thirds of the city's mail service was halted, since many postmen are Negroes.

All park and playground facilities were closed to keep crowds from congregating.

Police Chief Ross Dickey closed all beer and liquor dispensaries.

Beaumont was ordered out of bounds for all Army men.

61-1943
Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Suffolk Taximan Refutes Police Story Of Flareup

By C. L. WILLIAMS

SUFFOLK—Emphatic denial that he participated in an attack upon Carl Moulds, white filling station operator at the intersection of East Washington Street and Norfolk road, or upon the operator's 16-year-old son, Carl Moulds Jr., was made this week by Willie Roney, victim of a shooting by the elder Moulds Friday night, May 21, which precipitated what threatened to become a serious race disturbance in the city.

JUN 5 1943

Roney, 25, years old, and the owner of a fleet of five taxicabs and a shoe repair shop in the heart of the colored business district, upon being discharged from Lakeview Hospital where he received treatment for superficial bullet wounds in both legs, declared he was shot while fleeing from the Moulds after he had pleaded with the white man "don't shoot me."



WILLIE RONEY

SHOOTS MAN

The police version of the occurence as cited in a statement later released by City Manager J. C. Causey stated that Roney and "an unidentified Negro man drove into Mould's service station in a rapid and reckless manner.

"Carl Moulds Jr. aged 16, reprimanded the Negroes for the manner in which they entered the service station, whereup Moulds was attacked by both Negroes.

"C. M. Moulds Sr., owner of the service station, was in the building, and seeing what was happening to his son, came to his assistance when the two men attacked him. Mr. Moulds returned to the service station, got a pistol and shot Roney, who received a superficial leg wound."

JUN 2 1943

This story is refuted by Roney who gives the following version of what happened:

"I was not operating a taxicab at the time, but was driving a private car. Leland Britt, 18-years old, was riding with me as a companion, not a passenger. I had run out of gas and had been given a push.

"As I drifted into the station I stopped suddenly in front of the gas tank.

"Young Moulds, cursing remarked, 'what do you think you are doing, driving on a highway coming in here like that.' I asked Britt if he thought the boy meant what he said. Britt answered, 'yes he meant it.'

ARGUMENT ENSUED

"Britt got out of the car and the two, himself and young Moulds, began to push one another around. I got out and pleaded that there be no disturbance, telling Britt to come and leave the boy. I did not place my hands upon either. While I was imploring them to quit the tussel the father came out of the building brandishing a pistol, and pointed it at me.

"I began to plead with him not to shoot me, telling him that I was not implicated in the affair. I said to him, 'be yourself, be yourself. 'Get out of the way,' he ordered his colored employee who had just been filling my car tank, and when I noticed that he seemed infuriated, I ran around the gas tank and had reached the road when he shot me from behind, the bullet striking my right leg below the knee and glancing to make a flesh wound on my left leg. This. in spite of the fact that he knows me well since I have been a regular customer at his place."

JUN 9 1943

NEWS SPREAD

News of the incident spread rapidly through East Washington street, the city's most congested colored business, shopping and amusement thoroughfare.

Incensed over what they regarded an unwarranted assault upon the taxicab operator, a number of men gathered around Mould's filling station with the evident determination to wreck it.

A general melee ensued in which bricks, sticks, and bottles were thrown. White men gathered at Pinner and Washington street, and in the resulting clashes eight men beside Roney were injured, none seriously.

The presence of a police force of approximately 200 men including a contingent of both white and colored Navy Shore patrolmen dispatched from the Norfolk Naval Base, members of the Virginia Protective Force, local firemen and auxiliary policemen, hastily mobilized, brought calm to the city within a few hours.

By midnight complete order had been restored. In the confusion Randolph Ridley, colored, received superficial gunshot wounds.

Others injured were: Victor Brown, white, guard at a war project in Portsmouth, who was attacked on East Washington street and badly beaten.

Louis and Gilbert Twine, white, of Nansemond, attacked on their way to a picture show.

Frank Jernigan, fireman, acting as an auxiliary policeman, struck by a bottle.

Lorenzo Mason and Arthur Langston, hurt about the head by missles thrown from the crowd.

An unidentified truck driver from Florida hurt by flying glass when a rock crashed through the door of his truck.

JUN 5 1943

As a result of the disturbance all business establishments were closed on East Washington, east of the Norfolk and Western Railway Friday night. Nine arrests were made.

Two of those arrested are young Lafayette Backus, son of Grady L. Backus, East Washington street business man, and the Rev. Clarence Storey, according to reports.

However, the Backus youth's father has since averred that at the time of the disturbance his son and himself were standing across the street from the scene of the confusion conversing together. The elder Mr. Backus states that he has ample corroboration for this statement. He also ventures the conviction that the the filling station has since quit adding that the minister's only "offense" was in trying to see that Moulds was placed under arrest.

Roney is described as a mild-mannered and peaceable character, with a clean reputation in the city. He is free under bond of $250. Britt also has been bonded in a similar amount. Moulds also has been arrested, police state. The colored employee at the filing station has since quit his job.

Heavy Fines For 3 Charged With Inciting A Riot

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

OCT 9 1943

PORTSMOUTH—As a result of their alleged activities during the excitement created by a fire in Douglas Park on the night of December 1, three men, two residing in the [illegible] and the other [illegible], were given stiff fines and two received jail terms on charges of attempting to incite a riot, after a hearing before Justice R. H. Ricardo in Norfolk County Trial Justice Court Friday morning.

William Lewis was fined $100 and costs and given 30 days in jail for attempting to incite a riot; John B. Outlaw was fined $200 and costs and given 60 days in jail on charges of attempting to incite a riot and interference with police officers.

Calvin Waddill was fined $100 and costs for interference with a police officer. Appeals were noted in all of the cases.

Alexander Park police testified that considerable commotion developed in the crowd of about 500 persons attracted by the fire. It was testified that one of the men attempted to pull the hose from firemen who were fighting the fire.

Another was accused of urging by-standers to tear down one of the houses. The defendants denied the charges.

OCT 9 1943

61-1943
The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

HOODLUMS, PAY DAY DRUNKS RIOT THREE IN HOSPITAL, 8 JAILED

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 6—Chief of Police John Blaker said today that "hoodlums" and "pay-day drunks" last night started a riot, which police finally dispersed with tear gas. Three men were hospitalized and eight were jailed.

As an aftermath Mayor John Hogg said today: "I'm going to appeal to the governor to see that every beer joint in Vancouver is closed right thereafter."

Hogg said a meeting of all tavern operators would be held today in an attempt to reach agreement on a uniform closing time and prevent recurrence of last night's violence.

Hogg said some taverns run out of beer early and crowds of drinkers congregate later in the few taverns still open. This, he said, was a factor in the gathering of so large a crowd last night.

Blaker said the man police believed to be the ringleader of the violence was in custody but no charges had been filed. The man tried to prevent aPtrolman Pat Morrow from arresting a soldier, he said, and the officer had to hit the man over the wrist with a night-stick.

The man then agitated action against the police, the chief said, and soon cries of "Let's get the cops!" were heard.

Hundreds of persons drinking in beer taverns in the waterfront district, where the trouble started, piled into the street. They were joined by soldiers and pedestrians. A mob of approximately 1,000 persons quickly gathered. Taunts were shouted at police and fighting broke out.

Military police called to the scene had all soldiers back in their barracks within an hour. City police, aided by auxiliary civilian defense police, deputy sheriffs, state patrolmen and firemen who laid hoses as a threat finally scattered the crowd.

The demonstratiion broke out again later when a mob of some 600 persons — many of them teen-age youngsters, some of them shipyard workers, a few drunks and a few women — laid seige to the police station, shouting for the release of the man arrested for helping the soldier resist arrest.

Blaker called authorities at near-by Kelso and Longview and asked that State Guard units be mobilized. Mapor John Hogg appealed to the crowd from the police station steps to disperse. He was jeered and a rock crashed through the glass pane in the station door.

Police then charged the mob and fired teaf-gas shells until it dispersed.

A tar-gas shell struck Joe Walmer, amusement-company employe, and he suffered a possible leg fracture. Patrolman Harold Edmonds suffered gas burns on one hand. The soldier, over whom the trouble started, was taken to Vancouver Barracks with skull injuries suffered when struck by Officer Pat Morrow.

The soldier, police said, got in a fight with a civilian in a cafe early in the evening. A "bouncer" ejected him and he returned and punched the "bouncer". Three policemen attempted to subdue the soldier. Officer Morrow said the soldier tried to knife him three times and that each time he hit the soldier on the head with his nightstick.

* * *

Evro M. Becket, chairman of the State Liquor Board, said this afternoon Mayor John Hogg had talked with him regarding earlier closing hours for the taverns in Vancouver, and that the board had agreed to work with tavern operators on this matter.

Becket said he was informed Vancouver tavern operators were meeting this afternoon to discuss closing hours, and that whatever they decided would be agreeable with the board.

The board has the right under the state liquor law to regulate hours of operation by taverns, but Becket said the board was willing to cooperate with the operators.

Washington

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Quick Action By Negro M. P. and Private Save Policeman

A Seattle policeman was beaten by sailors and a bystander was injured by gunfire during a riot early yesterday in the Chinese Gardens, 516 7th Ave.

The trouble started, police said, when Patrolman H. L. Arnold attempted to halt a fight between two sailors. Then, they said, a navy warrant officer took a hand and the riot was on.

While attempting to handcuff one of the sailors, Arnold was knocked down and kicked, he reported. C. J. Forden, 807 Columbia St., seized Arnold's gun in an attempt to ward off the officer's assailants, and immediately became embroiled in a scuffle, during which the weapon was discharged, the bullet hitting Forden in the hand.

Following the shot. police said, the fighting increased and Arnold was hurled through one of the windows of the restaurant, and later was attacked by some sailors outside.

A stalwart Negro Military Policeman, Pfs. Lee Thurgood and Pvt. Frank Houstan under leadership of Sgt. J. H. Dunn, 1st Avenue Cantonement, rushed to the policeman's aid. They found four sailors in a combined attack on the policeman and other sailors attacking a taxi cab driver. The fighting sailors were quickly subdued. With the apearance of patrolmen O. L. Cone and Gordon Bradshaw three beligerent tars Walter C. Clute, nineteen; Paul Mangriaracina, twenty-two; and Cosmo Mangriaracina, twenty were arrested and held in city jail without charge for investigation in connection with the affair.

Forden was taken to King County Hospital. Attendants said he may osel one finger.

Beer Shortage Partly Blamed For Rioting

Courier-Journal

Early Bar Closing Asked In Vancouver, Wash.

Louisville, Ky.

Vancouver, Wash., Aug. 6 (AP)—Rioting along the waterfront by more than 1,000 persons—growing out of a policeman's attempt to arrest a soldier—brought a demand today by city officials that all beer taverns close at 8 p.m.

Mayor John Hogg and Police Chief John Blaker called a meeting of all tavern operators in an attempt to reach agreement on a uniform closing time and prevent recurrence of last night's violence, which was quelled by tear gas and streams of water from fire hoses.

Hogg said some taverns ran out of beer early and crowds of drinkers congregated later in the few taverns still open. This, he said, was a factor in the gathering of so large a crowd.

Blaker said the riot was started by hoodlums and "pay-day drunks."

Four men were held without charge in connection with the violence, which brought injuries to at least three persons.

62-1943



The Worker
New York, N. Y.

—Print courtesy of New York Public Library

Encampment of refugee Negroes near Bergen Point, N. J., during the anti-Negro riots in New York in 1863.

By ART SHIELDS

RACE INCITEMENT During the Civil War

JUL 18 1943

"RACE riots" are a standard fifth column tactic in America.

Klansmen who butchered Negroes on the streets of Detroit last month were following in the footsteps of Copperhead mobs, who slaughtered hundreds of Negroes on the streets of New York in the Civil War "Draft Riots" of July, 1863.

Both Klansmen and Copperheads sought to throw the country into chaos in its hour of deadliest peril.

Draft riots in New York and other seaboard cities were timed to break out with the invasion of Northern states by the slave owners' armies, led by Robert E. Lee.

And the slave owners' invasion, in turn, was timed with the maturing Copperhead conspiracy.

JUL 18 1943

Slaveowners Fire in the Rear

The New York riots, said Major General John A. Logan, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his history of the "Great Conspiracy," were part of that "Fire in the Rear" on which the enemy depended.

The fire was set by rich Copperheads who had business ties with the slave owners and by other enemies of the democratic movement that Lincoln was leading.

JUL 1943

Six daily Copperhead newspapers in New York were fanning that "Fire in the Rear."

The New York World, which Lincoln later shut down for a time, was advising every man to arm himself with "a good rifled-musket, a few pounds of powder and a hundred or so of shot" before the draft began.

And the editor of the New York Daily News, whom Lincoln later arrested, (Take warning from history, Captain Patterson!) was inciting the riots with his pen while he helped to organize them in his capacity as Supreme Commander of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

The Knights of the Golden Circle was a secret, insurrectionary Copperhead organization. It had 20,000 members in New York alone, said a report the following year by the Army's Judge Advocate General. It accumulated arms and specialized in anti-Negro agitation.

It's publisher was Fernando Wood, the corrupt Copperhead Mayor of New York, who urged New York City to secede from the Union before he was defeated in the 1862 elections.

Fortunately the city government was in patriotic hands. The police of George Opdyke, the abolitionist Republican Mayor were to fight like lions in the riots that were coming, until almost every cop was a casualty.

All Saturday night and Sunday well-dressed Copperhead agitators were flitting from bar room to bar room inciting the drinkers against the draft and the Negroes.

JUL 18 1943

Documents found since the war show riot agitators were working with agents of Jeff Davis.

The riot-inciters exploited an unfair provision of the draft, permitting monied men to buy their exemption for $300.

Burn Arsenal and Colored Orphan Home

At 10:30 A. M. they stormed draft headquarters, overpowering police and a thin guard of 50 invalid soldiers.

The rioters next smashed into the arsenal at 22nd St. and Second Ave., seizing many guns. Many perished inside like trapped rats when others fired the building.

JUL 18 1943

A crowd of 3,000 burned down the Colored Orphan Asylum on Fifth Ave. and 43rd St.

". . . by this time mobs all over town were . . . turning their wrath on the Negroes," said the writer, Dennis Tilden Lynch, in his biography "Boss Tweed."

Many Negroes had perished by dark.

"Over on Clarkson St., near Hudson," wrote Lynch, "a mob danced around a small bonfire. Barely within reach of the flames were the feet of a Negro who was being hanged from a tree."

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A carefully worded anti-draft speech by Copperhead Seymour from City Hall steps encouraged the mob the second day.

One group of juvenile hoodlums dashed into a Negro tenement and crashed a two-year-old child to its death from a window.

The fighting continued until five regular army regiments crushed the uprising on Wednesday and Thursday after perhaps 2,000 people, estimates Lynch, had fallen on both sides.

Twelve more regiments came Friday.

JUL 18 1943

New York Cheers Negro Regiment

Lincoln had to gravely weaken the front against General Lee to crush the enemy within.

But the insurrection was beaten.

The Copperhead conspiracy had lost out on timing. Originally set to break out while Lee was invading Pennsylvania it had been compelled to wait until the draft began operating. And Lee was beaten meanwhile.

Morgan was raiding Indiana, it is true, but the big Rebel push that the Copperheads had wanted to help, had been destroyed.

The "common people," said the Civil War historian Benson J. Lossing, had "said 'No'" to the cry of "Down with the Negro!"

". . . six months after the terrible 'three days of July,' in the City of New York, when no colored person's life was considered safe there," he continued, "a regiment of Negro soldiers (26th United States Colored Troops) raised and equipped in the space of 20 days by the Local League of that city, marched down Broadway for the field, escorted by many of the leading citizens of the metropolis, and cheered by thousands who covered the sidewalks and filled windows and balconies."

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And he significantly told an Albany correspondent in June, 1863, that he would some day be blamed for not arresting enemies enough.

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The six Copperhead papers that printed this appeal to treason also reported the pro-Confederate speech of former Gov. Franklin B. Pierce of Vermont, a close friend of Jeff Davis, the Rebel President.

Governor Seymour meanwhile was opening the city front to the enemy within. Shortly before the riots began he had stripped the city of thousands of troops. Only 300 able-bodied soldiers and 500 invalided infantrymen were left in New York.

New York, as I said, had a patriotic majority. But its best young blood, especially from the trade unions, had gone to the front. And the Copperheads were able to mobilize a large gang of hoodlums around draft headquarters at 46th St. and Third Ave., when the conscription wheels began turning July 11th.

That was Saturday morning.

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JUL 18 1943

WAR RIOTS 1917-'21

East St. Louis, Ill. May 27-30 and July 1-3, 1917. 39 colored killed, 8 whites. Hundreds of colored wounded and maimed.
Cause: Importation of colored laborers from the South. Objection of labor unions to this importation. Use of colored laborers as strike-breakers. 312 buildings, 24 railroad cars burned.

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JUN 26 1943

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ANTI-NEGRO RIOTS IN TWO WARS

The Worker, New York

Negro Communist leader James W. Ford witnessed the World War I anti-Negro riots in Chicago and those in Detroit recently. As in 1917, he writes, the enemy seeks to profit by disunity.

By JAMES W. FORD

I RECENTLY returned from the city of Detroit where I witnessed the horrible tragedy of the anti-Negro riots organized by Hitler's American fifth column in the country's greatest center for the production of tanks and planes.

My recollections went back to the race riots in Chicago in 1919. I was one of the victims in that rioting. I was working as a postal despatcher in the Chicago post office. I was a member of Local 1 of the Postal Workers Union and [illegible] a delegate in the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The rioting broke out on the South and West Sides of Chicago on the evening of July 27, 1919. At midnight the Negro employes of the Chicago post office were sent home in mail trucks. Probably the United States mail trucks saved us as we were moved through sections of the city from downtown where the rioting was at its highest pitch. We lost a week from work. One thousand Negroes of Chicago were made homeless. Twenty-three Negroes and fifteen whites were killed. Three hundred forty-two Negroes and 178 whites were injured. These are the additional reasons why I could understand and feel what Negroes went through in the city of Detroit on June 21 and 22.

Communists Hit Fifth Column

The Communist Party of Michigan immediately announced that the anti-Negro riots was an organized fifth column conspiracy which struck at the war effort and against our Commander-in-Chief President Roosevelt.

Beaumont. Detroit, Mobile, Newark and Los Angeles have many of the earmarks of the race riots of 1917-19. But, of course, we must never forget that these anti-Negro riots today are taking place under entirely different conditions. We are engaged in a war against the Nazi-Axis powers, bent on destroying the independence of this nation. And as the saying goes, "Everything is fair in war." A fifth column is at work inside our country to aid the enemy. This fifth column takes advantage of the position of the Negro people to instigate acts of diversion behind the lines.

Every Negro welcomes what President Roosevelt is doing and has done to break down discrimination and to fully integrate Negroes into the nation's war effort. But these efforts of our Commander-in-Chief are met with well-planned opposition and insurrection from the Nazi fifth column.

John L. Lewis' insurrection in the labor movement is one of the centers of this opposition. It is directed against the nation's war effort, against the interests of labor and those of the Negro people. Lewis' intervention against the nation's war effort, when the wheels of industry should be continuously turning out weapons of war, has taken on more serious proportions. Lewis' insurrection in the mine fields has been a signal to the Ku Klux Klan and the America First party to go full speed ahead with anti-Negro riots. Anti-Negro riots have been organized in the shipping, aircraft and tank industries and in Negro communities. That is why anyone can see that the Detroit situation is not only political but is directly associated with the conspiracy against the war, and is of common interest to labor, the Negro people and the entire nation.

The 1917-1919 Riots

Twenty-four years have passed since the Chicago riots. But a look at Detroit brought back to me memories of 1917-19, as though it were yesterday. I had just returned from World War I. I had served 17 months in the 92nd Division of the First American Army. Eight months had been served in France.

In June of 1917 the so-called Houston "riot" broke out in Houston, Texas. It created a sensation throughout the nation. Immediately most Negro army units, including our outfit were despatched overseas. We were not in France one month before the East St. Louis race riot broke out on July 2, 1917. Thirty-nine Negroes and eight whites were killed. over 800 were injured. Here is how we got the news in France about the East St. Louis riot.

The propaganda department of the German army left leaflets in trenches especially addressed to American Negro troops informing them of what was taking place in the United States.

The German press during those days carried on propaganda about conditions in America. The "Koelnische Volkszeitung" had printed much material about the treatment of Negroes in the United States. It carried one article entitled "Judge Lynch, Mister Mob." Some of this material was reprinted in leaflets. One leaflet read:

"Hello, boys, what are you doing over here? Do you enjoy the same rights as the white people do in America, the land of Freedom and Democracy, or are you rather not treated over there as second-class citizens? Remember every American of all classes of society, without exception, including men and women partake in mobs."

Morale Hurt In 1917

This is how we Negro troops were propagandized by the Germans and in some cases given detailed information about lynchings in the United States. Yet there are some people today who say that such things as the anti-Negro riots are "accidents."

Nevertheless, Negro troops in France were not diverted from helping to defeat the Germans in 1918. But tremendous harm was done to the morale of the troops. The harm done to the morale of Negro troops in France and the damage of the race riots following World War I in Chicago, Washington, D. C., Omaha and other places, kept turning over again and again in my mind when I got to Detroit on Tuesday morning, June 22.

The race riots of 1919 were provoked to break the unity between Negro and white workers in Chicago's great industries. That is what the fifth column is trying to do now in Detroit and throughout the nation. **The fifth column inside our country which is connected with world fascist forces is out to wreck our home front and prepare for a negotiated peace with Hitler.**

How Negro Press Reacted in 1919

The fifth column knows perfectly well how to play upon the basest prejudices of sections of backward white masses in order to create confusion and disorganization.

In 1919 tens of thousands of Negroes had been drawn into Chicago industries. On a similar scale, 60,000 Negroes are helping to turn out weapons in Detroit industries to destroy Hitler. The Negro workers are a powerful force in the labor movement of Detroit. They support and fight for win-the-war policies in the trade unions.

It is well, therefore, to recall an important lesson from the anti-Negro riots of 1919. At that time labor intervened in behalf of the Negroes. The "New Majority," a Chicago labor paper, wrote

"Heavy responsibility rests upon the white men and women of organized labor. Now it is going to be decided whether colored workers are going to continue to come into the labor movement or whether they are going to feel that they have been abandoned by it and lose confidence in it. All the influence of the unions should be exerted on the community to protect colored fellow-workers from unreasoning frenzy of race prejudice. It (labor) is up against the acid test to show whether this is so."

Today labor faces the greatest responsibility in its history because this is labor's war. The fifth column is trying to wreck the war. Anti-Negro riots are one of their weapons of starting insurrection against the war. The trade unions have got to learn to resist this method of attack of the fifth column. As is well known, the workers of Germany and France today suffering under the yoke of German fascists, are paying bitterly for weaknesses in their struggle against the fascist method of destroying unions step by step.

Detroit has demonstrated the technique of the fifth column. It is the technique of how a minority imposes its will over the majority. It will continue to use this technique. The American fifth column is not going to stop with Detroits and Beaumonts. We cannot expect the fifth column to give up until it is smashed. Neither Hitler on the battlefield, nor the fascists in the United States will give up until they are smashed. Mass defense by white workers of Negro workers against fifth column attacks is the cardinal requirement for defense of the trade unions and the nation at war.

Foster's Testimony At Probe

My observations of Detroit bond of sympathy and mutuality plants proves that there is a great among the overwhelming majority of white workers [illegible] the Negro workers. William Z. Foster made this point clear in his testimony before the commission investigating the Chicago riots in 1919 when he declared:

"There is more fraternal feeling among the black and white workers than in any other grade of society (and) as soon as the colored man becomes a factor in industry he has got to be organized."

In Detroit the Negro worker became the foundation for union organization. Henry Ford's "$6 per day paradise" did not lure the Negro workers away from the unions. The Negroes found in the trade unions mighty strength through firm solidarity of Negro and white. That is why the fifth column hates the Negroes and the unions alike.

The Danger Is Indifference

The most dangerous talk now going around is:

"There is no evidence that the Detroit anti-Negro riots were organized in any way by fifth columnists."

"We should rid ourselves of the idea that the rioting was organized or instigated by enemy agents of the Ku Klux Klan."

"It is nonsense about the racial trouble being fifth column activity."

There is one thing which labor, the government and the win-the-war forces have got to learn, which was so brilliantly stated by Earl Browder in his book *Victory—and After*: **"The fifth column is the most complicated weapon of modern warfare."**

Only a part of the fifth column works openly. Much of its activity is deeply hidden. As I arrived in New York from Detroit the press was reporting the case of a Nazi spy "who was the most efficient air raid warden" and who, at the same time, had been caught transmitting information to Hitler Germany about the movement of American ships.

Greensboro, Ala., Watchman
September 25, 1948

75 YEARS AGO IN THE ALABAMA BEACON

SEPTEMBER 26, 1868)

A riot, attended with the loss of several lives, occurred a few days ago in Camilla, Ga. It originated in an attempt on the part of a carpet-bag candidate for Congress, named W. R. Pearce, backed by a few white Radicals and several hundred negroes, to hold a political meeting in Camilla, armed. The sheriff met the procession some distance from town, and notified them they could not be allowed to assemble together at a political meeting armed. The procession having marched into town armed, in defiance of the sheriff's orders, a posse of the citizens was summoned and the procession fired upon. Several whites were wounded, and quite a number of negroes killed and wounded. Quiet and order had been restored, at the last accounts, and no further hostile demonstrations were expected. This affair, which appears to have grown entirely out of the attempt of these carpet-baggers and their colored dupes to hold a political meeting armed, will no doubt be greatly exaggerated in the North. It will prove a god-send to The Tribune and other Radical sheets.